

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

## Iraq says Arabs owe it \$1.5 billion

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Arab states owe Iraq a total of \$1.5 billion in unpaid debts, profits on investments and bank deposits, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday. A ministry spokesman, quoted by the official news agency INA, said Saudi Arabia tops the list with a debt of \$518.79 million. Syria owes more than \$400 million, followed by Bahrain with \$290 million. Kuwait with \$150 million, Somalia \$78.7 million, the United Arab Emirates \$16.87 million, and Egypt with \$2.23 million, he said. The debts also include the value of Iraq's oil exports via its neighbours before the U.N. sanctions were imposed in August 1990, after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Iraq's assets abroad were frozen under the sanctions.

## Minister says S. Arabia will pump world's last barrel of oil in 100 years

RIYADH (AFP) — The world's very last barrel of crude will be extracted from Saudi soil in a century or so, Oil Minister Ali Ben Ibrahim Nuaimi said on Tuesday. "Oil will dry up one day, after 100 years, more or less. But the last barrel of oil will be Saudi," he said, quoted by the official news agency SPA. The desert kingdom has 261 billion barrels in reserves, or 25.9 per cent of the world's total, and ranks first in terms of both reserves and production. Its current output is around eight million barrels a day.

Volume 22 Number 6578

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1997, RABI 1 4, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

## Prince Hassan says EU willing to establish special fund for region

From Abdullah Hasanat in Budapest

HRH CROWN Prince Hassan revealed that Europe is willing to set up a fund to help develop the economy of the region, just before he returned home yesterday after visits to Turkey, the U.S., the U.K., Switzerland and Hungary.

In a statement to the press, before his departure from Budapest, Prince Hassan said that the primary goal of his visit was the realisation of Jordanians' political and economic aspirations.

His Royal Highness said "I can tell our citizens that we have conducted talks with officials in the United States and Europe, in which we felt their readiness to stand beside Jordan and to contribute in economical development."

His Royal Highness said that the European Union had expressed its readiness to establish a fund to support stability and the economy of the region, similar to that established by the U.S. last month and in which Jordan is to receive an additional \$100 million in American aid.

During his talks with Turkish and Western leaders, the Crown Prince sought to promote Jordan's interests, to campaign for peace in the Middle East and to share his vision of a new world order based on



HRH Crown Prince Hassan was greeted by HRH Prince Abdullah upon his return home Tuesday from a trip that took him to Turkey, the U.S., the U.K., Switzerland and Hungary (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

human principles rather than the principle of force and power.

"My main concern was to further the welfare of Jordanians on all levels," the Crown Prince told Jordan Television before returning home.

Jordan's principled position on peace and its moderate policies and economic liberalisation drive are appreciated by the Kingdom's friends, Prince Hassan said.

That appreciation, the Prince said, manifested itself in the U.S. adminis-

tration's establishment of the \$100 million fund for peace and stability in the Middle East, and a European willingness to match the American initiative.

The Prince said that he has heard positive responses from the Western leaders and businesspersons he met during his visits and willingness to invest in Jordan.

He described his visit to Hungary as one that led us "to discover a new horizon, a new window for us."

Hungary, a member of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe

(OSCE), is about to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and is applying for membership in the European Union (EU).

In his talks with American and European leaders, the Crown Prince reiterated Jordan's position that calls for comprehensive peace in the Middle East including the attainment of the Palestinians of their inalienable rights, most importantly their right to statehood with its capital in Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 7)

## The Muslim Brotherhood decides to boycott parliamentary elections

### Islamic Action Front has two choices now, either abide by mother or go independent

By Francesca Ciriaci and Khaleel Shoubaki  
Jordan Times and Al Ra'i Staff Reporters

AMMAN — In a historic statement issued after an eight-hour council meeting started late Tuesday afternoon, the Muslim Brotherhood announced early morning today its decision to boycott the 1997 elections.

The official statement publicising the decision was signed by the Brotherhood's general supervisor, Abdul Majeed Thneibat,

who chaired the meeting.

One of the Muslim Brotherhood leaders said that the Council of Thiny, the Brotherhood's higher body, decided to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections "to express the definite conviction that the political game in Jordan is no longer useful."

He added that the decision was taken because the Lower House of Parliament "is absent from all important political decisions, law-making, budgeting, or appointment in important posts of the state."

He asserted that the government "has been single-handed in their rule since the mid-1995, and has taken dangerous decisions contradicting the people's aspirations, especially after it had signed a peace treaty with Israel, with no political gains."

The source, who asked not to be named, also strongly criticised the one-person, one-vote system as "eliminating the parties' chances to achieve parliamentary majority," and accused the newly introduced amendments to the

1993 Press and Publications Law of "concealing information and hiding the truth."

The decision will have a great impact on the future policies of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm, which, though financially and administratively independent, has largely conformed to the Brotherhood's political guidelines since its establishment in 1992.

Even though the IAF had

(Continued on page 7)

## Truce committee calls for restraint in south Lebanon

NAQOURA (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a ceasefire in southern Lebanon has denounced cross-border rocket attacks and called for respect for the truce agreement.

The five-nation panel said in a statement issued late Monday that it had "accepted as factual" that Israel and Lebanon-based armed groups, an apparent reference to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, had exchanged rocket attacks.

The committee noted that Israeli fire injured four civilians, including a six-year-old boy who lost an

(Continued on page 7)

## Netanyahu completes cabinet appointments

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday completed a round of cabinet appointments after three weeks of wrangling over jobs that left his government weakened and divided.

However, fresh trouble was expected from disgruntled Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon who was deprived at the last minute of the finance ministry and a place in the inner circle of ministers conducting the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu on Monday gave the treasury to Yaakov Neeman, his former justice minister.

In completing the appointments Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu handed the vacant science portfolio to Michael Eitan, a senior figure in the ruling Likud Party and coalition chairman in parliament. Another Likud legislator, Silvan Shalom,

was appointed deputy defence minister. After a year, Mr. Eitan and Mr. Shalom will switch jobs.

The appointments of Mr. Neeman and Mr. Eitan were to be submitted to parliament for approval Wednesday.

The crisis began three weeks ago with the resignation of Finance Minister Dan Meridor who said after a policy dispute with Mr. Netanyahu that he no longer had faith in the prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu promised the finance ministry to Mr. Sharon. However, Mr. Sharon said he would only take over the finance ministry if he was also admitted to Mr. Netanyahu's "inner cabinet."

Foreign Minister David Levy and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai objected to Mr. Sharon's admission, and Mr. Levy threatened to resign.

With the choice of Mr. Neeman, Mr. Netanyahu solved the crisis with Mr. Levy and Mr. Mordechai. However, he made an enemy of Mr. Sharon, and political commentators predicted Tuesday that Mr. Netanyahu is storing up trouble for the future.

"Mr. Sharon is very witty and very patient," said Israel Radio reporter Yaron Deckel. "He will respond, but he will choose the time and place."

The United States also opposed a key role in the peace talks for Mr. Sharon and exerted pressure to keep him out of Mr. Netanyahu's inner circle, a newspaper said Tuesday.

Mr. Sharon, a former defence minister, is feared by the Arab World because of his hardline view on a possible permanent peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

## Iraq-Kuwait dispute dominates Arab Games ahead of opening

BEIRUT (AP) — Gulf war enemies Iraq and Kuwait have picked a new battleground, the eighth Arab Games in Beirut.

The Pan-Arab Games are not yet underway, but on Tuesday Iraq accused oil-rich Kuwait of using its money and power to try to eliminate Iraqi teams from taking part in the games starting Saturday.

Baghdad would be competing for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war, but Kuwait — which has not forgiven Iraq's invasion of the emirate — has threatened to boycott contests in which its old enemy participates.

Host Lebanon, caught in the middle, does not want to upset friendly Kuwait but is shackled with an Arab League invitation to Iraq to join in the competition, which runs through

July 27.

On Monday, when selections were made for teams in soccer, volleyball and basketball, Iraq's name was not included in the draw.

An official at the organising committee, speaking on condition of anonymity, conceded Iraq was "deliberately ignored in the selections in order to avoid a Kuwaiti walkout."

He said Lebanon, which has no relations with Iraq, did not invite it to participate. But Iraq says an invitation from the Cairo-based Arab League means approval of the host country is not needed.

Monday's draw was condemned by Bahil, a government daily run by Uday Hussein, son of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.

Referring to Kuwait without naming it, Bahil said the organising committee

for the games "is a toy in the hands of those who have the power of money, thinking that by this power they can scratch the name of Iraq out of the records."

It was unclear if the committee would keep Iraqi athletes out of all competitions to avoid boycotts by Kuwait, which is a major contributor to Lebanon's post-war reconstruction.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were the only two Arab countries to fork out money — a total of \$26 million — to help in the \$75 million rebuilding of the war-damaged Beirut sports city stadium, site of the games.

The dispute shows Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing Gulf war in which U.S.-led forces drove out Iraq, the bitter war continues to affect

(Continued on page 7)

## Kuwait says border guards have exchanged fire with Iraqi army

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti police and some Iraqis exchanged gunfire across the border, which has been closed since shortly after the 1991 Gulf war, the interior ministry said Tuesday.

Ministry spokesman Colonel Bader Salch said four to five Iraqis, some of them armed with machine guns, opened fire at dawn Sunday at civilians building a border watch tower.

Border police returned the fire, but there were no casualties on the Kuwaiti side, he told the Associated Press.

Several similar incidents have been reported in the past.

It was not clear if the Iraqis were civilians or soldiers, or if any of them was injured in the firing. No information was available in Iraq immediately.

United Nations observers patrolling a demilitarised zone along the 210-kilometre desert frontier said they have received a complaint from Kuwait and are investigating.

Kuwait has built a trench along its border to stop Iraqi infiltration, and is now building another one with barbed wire and an electronic surveillance system.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Its troops were evicted seven months later by a U.S.-led coalition that fought the Gulf war.

## 8 people die, 22 injured in border traffic accident

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eight people were killed Tuesday, and 22 more were injured, including two listed in critical condition, in a road collision near Rweished town, police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials said.

The crash, which occurred at 2:30 p.m., was the result of speeding and dangerous overtaking, traffic officials said.

According to the police, the accident which took place near the old customs building on the border with Iraq, involved a private transportation bus bearing Saudi Arabian licence

plates and carrying 30 Saudi Arabian passengers heading for Iraq, and a Jordanian truck coming back from Iraq.

The official said that the Saudi bus passengers were Shiites heading for pilgrimage.

Police said that the driver of the Saudi bus attempted to pass a car and crashed the trailer head-on.

"The accident's impact caused the instant death of the trailer driver as well as that of seven bus passengers," the police official said.

He added that the collision caused the trailer to burst into flames, and totalled the Saudi bus.

He noted that the trailer

driver, Suleiman Nueimat, 37, was burnt beyond recognition.

Officials were able to identify one of the seven killed in the accident. He was Ali Abdul Al Oqeili, 45. The names of the other six were not available.

According to CDD officials, the injured were rushed to the King Hussein Medical Centre and Rweished Hospital.

In December of 1995, eight Saudi nationals were killed in a road collision on the Azraq-Omar Highway.

Last year, traffic statistics indicated that 552 people were killed and 15,375 injured in 33,784 reported road accidents in the Kingdom.

## Top Israeli army official visits Amman in first ever visit to any Arab country

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Israeli chief of staff General Amnon Shahak, arrived here on Tuesday, the first such visit by an Israeli chief of staff to an Arab country since the establishment of Israel, Jordan Army officials said.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Israeli general met with his Jordanian counterpart Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh and "reviewed with him the peace process and efforts exerted to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace which will maintain stability and prosperity," Petra said.

Reporters were not allowed to cover the two-day visit and the general's different meetings with senior Jordanian army officials. Government officials were tight-lipped on the visit and refused to comment.

But Israel Radio said that General Shahak, who was accompanied by a senior military intelligence official, received an official welcome upon his arrival at the Army Headquarters.

The radio said the Israeli delegation included the head of the planning commission at the Israeli army



Israeli Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahak receives a gift from Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh during his visit to Amman. No Israeli chief of staff has ever visited an Arab country before (AFP photo)

and chairman of the liaison unit with foreign forces. It also included Israeli air and sea forces officials.

The radio said that the general attended a military training exercise by some army units of the Jordanian Army.

Jordanian Army officials, who cannot be named under standing regulations, told the Jordan Times that

Gen. Shahak visited the King Faisal Air Force Base in Azraq.

The officials said that Gen. Shahak may meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who is also the defence minister.

The Associated Press quoted the spokesman of the Israeli embassy in Amman, Shalom Tourge-man, as saying that during

General Shahak's visit, he discussed "cooperation and closer relations between the armies of the two countries."

Gen. Shahak's visit to the Kingdom came amid Israeli news reports claiming an aide to Field Marshal Kaabneh, Lieutenant General

(Continued on page 7)



## Rashid says election on time unless King delays from one to two years

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Interior Nuhir Rashid on Monday said that the parliamentary elections will be held in time unless His Majesty King Hussein extends the present mandate of Parliament to at least one year or within a maximum of two years.

Speaking on a programme aired Monday by Jordan Television, Mr. Rashid said that according to Article 34 of the Jordanian Constitution, the King issues orders to hold parliamentary elections four months before the end of the mandate of the present Parliament and that the Council of Ministers has the power to call a certain date for these elections.

The minister said that the elections will be fair and that each citizen who is eligible to vote should exercise his/her right on the day of elections to turn out a Parliament that represents the people.

"People should elect those whom they think would address their causes and problems and adhere to their slogans during their election campaign," said Mr. Rashid.

He said that Jordan has qualified cadres who can supervise and control the general elections and that inviting international

observers to these elections is something that touches upon the Kingdom's sovereignty.

"We have qualified persons who can adhere to their responsibilities and represent their voters, so I urge Jordanians to elect those whom they trust and believe will address their problems. As for international observers, I think it is an internal affair and we do not mind them attending such elections although this harms our national sovereignty and cultural image," said Mr. Rashid.

In reply to a question on Jordanian parties, the minister said that the issue has been brought up in the last few months, particularly in the newspapers, claimed the ministry would inspect and control the performance of all Jordanian parties with no exception.

Mr. Rashid continued that this is not true because, according to the Constitution, the ministry has the right to inspect the financial budgets of parties and check whether they are receiving any remittances from external parties.

The minister said: "According to the Constitution, Article 16 stipulates that the parties should be supported financially by Jordanians in the Kingdom

and each member of any party can pay up to JD5,000 annually."

"All these parties should submit their annual financial budgets to the ministry and that the minister has the right to appoint a comptroller to inspect the budgets of the parties, which is what has happened, and we found some violations which were referred to the supreme court," he added.

In reply to a question about professional associations, the minister said that professional associations turned out to be political which was crystal clear in the last few months when the Ministry of Information amended the Press and Publications Law.

"We are not against the parties nor the associations but when the associations carried out a sit-in, they ignored that they should first apply for their sit-in to the governor who in turn approves or disapproves," said Mr. Rashid.

"We should not be informed by newspapers that such a sit-in is going to take place here or there on a certain date. We live in a state of the law," added the minister.

Asked about the measures taken by the government to stop

citizen encroachment on governmental lands, the minister said: "This has been a problem for the past few years but we interfere when we have orders from the court which was actually the case in the Jordan Valley."

Commenting on what has been published in the local press about closing down shops because their owners pasted posters carrying words that "Israelis are not allowed in," Mr. Rashid said: "We did not take any measure by ourselves, but we received information and complaints from the Israeli embassy in Amman asking us to take suitable measures."

On governmental bureaucracy, the minister said that he himself has found some clerks hiding official forms and applications submitted by citizens in drawers but this issue has been solved and everything is settled and under control.

"Some forms dated back to 1996 and were kept in drawers. We inspected them and sacked those involved," said the minister, noting that government transactions nowadays do not take more than three days to finish, whatever they are.



French delegates to the international committee monitoring the cease-fire agreement in south Lebanon arrive at the UNIFIL headquarters in Lebanon, Monday. The committee is due to discuss a Lebanese complaint regarding the injury of seven Lebanese civilians in an Israeli bombardment on south Lebanon on Sunday (AFP photo)

## Egypt bars Israeli spy suspect from contacting codefendant

CAIRO (AFP) — An Israeli on trial for spying for Israel has been barred from contacting his Egyptian codefendant by prison authorities here, a judicial source said on Tuesday.

The decision follows a written complaint by the Egyptian, Emad Ismail, that Israeli Druze Azzam Azzam had offered "a large sum of money if he retraced his confessions," the source said, without elaborating.

Azzam, a 34-year-old engineer who was working for an Israeli textile firm in

Cairo, and Ismail, a colleague, have pleaded not guilty to charges of spying for Israel. Both were arrested late last year.

The prison in Tora, a suburb south of Cairo, has changed the timetables for the two accused to prevent them from meeting during exercise sessions, and has already put them in separate cells.

At the latest hearing last month, the Egyptian prosecutor asked the Cairo State Security Court to jail Azzam for 15 years with

hard labour and a similar 25-year sentence for Ismail.

The court has heard testimony that Azzam had passed on clothes to Ismail which contained sensitive information written in invisible ink.

Two Arab Israeli women, Zahra Youssef Joris and Mona Ahmed Shawahna, are also being tried in their absence for having recruited Ismail for the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

The next hearing is due July 19.

## Iraq receives new food cargo

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A new cargo of food supplies has arrived in sanctions-hit Iraq under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, which has fallen behind schedule, official newspapers reported Tuesday.

The cargo of 1,734 tonnes of cooking oil arrived Sunday in the southern port of Umm Qasr on the Gulf. The supplies are to be added to the rationing system in force since the sanctions were imposed almost seven years ago.

The latest delivery was part of the contracts which Iraq sealed for the first term of the oil-for-food accord, which was renewed for a second six-month term in June.

Under the humanitarian exemption to the U.N. imposed sanctions, Iraq is entitled to export two billion dollars worth of oil every six months to finance imports of food and medicine.

But Iraq, which has been under embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, has suspended the crude exports pending agreement on a new food distribution for the second term.

Baghdad, which accuses Washington of delaying U.N. approval of Iraq's food and medicine contracts, has received only just over one million tonnes of the 2.3 million tonnes of supplies it financed with the first-term crude imports.

## Turkey's Erbakan slams Yilmaz for avoiding polls

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's former Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan on Tuesday criticised the new secularist government for not fixing a date for early elections in its programme of action read out in parliament.

"There was nothing about an election of course because it is a Cankaya government that is trying to avoid the polls," Mr.

Erbakan told a meeting of his Welfare Party MPs.

Mr. Erbakan lost power last month in a bungled power transfer that followed months of army pressure on his Islamist-led coalition. He says President Suleyman Demirel helped oust him after talks with the opposition in the Cankaya Presidential Palace.

New Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz outlined anti-

Islamist measures in a keynote speech to MPs on Monday but he did not mention a previous promise to hold early elections next year. Commentators say the Islamists would benefit from snap polls.

Mr. Erbakan, Turkey's first Islamist leader, predicted Mr. Yilmaz would lose a parliamentary confidence vote at the weekend. "This government will

never get a vote of confidence from this parliament. The parliament will not play the game," he said.

The government is widely expected to win the vote. Mr. Yilmaz and his allies have around a dozen deputies on paper than the opposition, a rough alliance between Mr. Erbakan, his conservative former coalition partners and a far-right group.

## Kuwaiti finance minister to be grilled next week

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Finance Minister Nasser Rodhan agreed Tuesday to face questioning in parliament next week over his alleged mismanagement of public funds.

Three MPs have submitted documents against the minister and called for a formal questioning, charging that Mr. Rodhan failed to implement laws to protect public funds and prevent the misuse of public property.

Mr. Rodhan, who could have asked for up to two weeks delay, said the grilling could go ahead Tuesday.

"I read and reviewed the interpellation and was surprised at the contents," the minister, who is also deputy prime minister, told members of the National Assembly, or parliament.

He said the documents accused him of "negligence and laxity in implementing laws and even allowing the squandering of public

funds," but said it was the constitutional right of any MP to question a minister.

"Therefore, I will undertake to respond to everything in the interpellation, stressing that I always have and will continue to protect the public funds," the minister said.

The questioning could lead to Mr. Rodhan's resignation if at least 10 MPs file a motion of no confidence against him and win the support of a majority of MPs, excluding cabinet members.

Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Sabah has given Mr. Rodhan the full backing of the government.

Mr. Rodhan was appointed finance minister and deputy prime minister in 1992, taking a seat in parliament as an unelected cabinet member.

He previously held the commerce and industry portfolio. In 1985, the then justice minister resigned after losing a confidence vote.

## Assassin says luck saved Saddam's Uday

LONDON (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, the target of assassins' bullets in December, survived the attack because he changed places with his driver at the last moment, a leader of the assassination squad said in an interview published here Tuesday.

Ismail Othman, an Iraqi hiding in a European capital, told the Independent daily that at first his group called Al Naddah had considered kidnapping Uday but decided it was too difficult.

Instead they reportedly discovered a member of Uday's own circle called Rafid Hazaa, whose uncle had been executed by Saddam Hussein, who was willing to help them in their murder plot.

Hazaa tipped them off of Uday's plans to attend a party in a fashionable area of Baghdad on December 12.

Four members of Al Naddah waited at a crossroads on

Uday's route and threw a grenade at his car when it arrived there.

One of the gunmen then ran towards the car firing at the driver, believing him to be Uday.

It was only when a second gunman approached that they realised that Uday was still alive and shot at him. Saddam's 33-year-old son was hit by 14 bullets but survived the attack. When he left hospital on June 9 Iraqi officials said he made a "full recovery" although he appeared on crutches.

Iraqi authorities have announced no arrests in the assassination bid, while Uday has pointed a finger at Iran, which fought an eight-year war against Iraq during the 1980s. Othman told the Independent that his group escaped from Iraq by fleeing into the country's western desert, where they were joined by Hazaa, then to Jordan.

## 8 European tourists, Egyptian die in crash

CAIRO (AP) — A tourist bus collided with a semi-trailer truck in southern Egypt on Tuesday, killing at least eight foreign tourists and an Egyptian, police said Tuesday.

Egyptian Television said that six of the foreigners were from the Netherlands and two were from Belgium.

Police said one Egyptian was among the dead, but the television — which has a film crew in the area — said as many as five Egyptians could be dead.

Police said that rescue

workers were using blow torches to cut apart the wreckage of the bus to search for survivors.

Police said at least a dozen tourists and three Egyptians were injured.

The collision occurred about 150 kilometres south of Aswan. The tourists had been en route from Abu Simbal, they said.

Aswan, which is 700 kilometres south of Cairo, is known for its Pharaonic temples and tombs. Abu Simbal, home to ancient temples built by Pharaoh Ramses II, lies about 230

kilometres southwest of Aswan.

Police said that the truck and bus were on a very narrow stretch of road and that the truck apparently hit the bus, crushing it on impact.

Police said there were 35 people on the bus and that they believed there were two people in the truck.

An official at the Dutch embassy in Cairo confirmed that it had reports several Dutch nationals were killed in a bus crash. The diplomat said a team was being dispatched to the scene.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19			
PROGRAMME TWO			
15:35	French Programmes	16:05	Captain Planet
16:30	Spell Binder	17:30	Border Town
18:10	French Programmes	19:00	News in French
19:30	News Headlines	19:35	Doc. — Grace Under Fire
20:00	Soldier's Diary	20:30	Challenges
21:10	Spencer For Hire	22:00	News in English
22:30	Land's End	23:15	American Gothic
PRAYER TIMES			
03:58	Fajr	05:32	Sunrise/Duha
12:41	Dhuhr	16:21	Asr
19:49	Maghreb	21:23	Isha
CHURCHES			
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifef, Tel. 810740			
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 652785			
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590			
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440			
De la Salle Church Tel. 661737			
Terza Sancta Church Tel. 622366			
Anglican Church Tel. 652826			

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR			
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331			
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261			
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771781			
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245			
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328			
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457			
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932			
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691			
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295			
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190			
WEATHER			
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology			
Temperatures are expected to drop becoming around average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aquaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.			
Amman	20/31	Aqaba	26/39
Deserts	18/36	Jordan Valley	24/38
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
NIGHT DUTY			
Dr. Jamal Jharab ..... 847351			
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb ..... 837348			
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 885446			
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab ..... 602507			
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912			
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280			
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 837055			
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730			
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945			
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 625660			
Naimukh pharmacy ..... 825672			
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632			
EMERGENCIES			
Food Control Centre ..... 637111			
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111			
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 650341			
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 650341			
HOSPITALS			
Hussein Medical Centre			
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777			
Fire Brigade ..... 617101			
Blood Bank ..... 775121			
Highway Police ..... 843402			
Traffic Police ..... 896390			
Public Security Department ..... 630321			
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800			
Price Complaints ..... 661176			
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467			
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111			
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121			
Overseas Calls ..... 010230			
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101			
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101			
Jordan Television ..... 773111			
Radio Jordan ..... 774111			
Water Authority ..... 680100			
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815613			
Electric Power Company ..... 636381			
RJ Flight Information ..... 53200			
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 53200			
AMMAN:			
Hussein Medical Centre			
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6			
Akilch Maternity, 642441/2			
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362			
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140			
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071			
Shmeisani Hospital 669131			
University Hospital 845845			
Al-Buasher Hospital 672278			
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37			
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6			
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3			
Al-Bashir, ..... 775111/26			
Army, Marka, ..... 891611/15			
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50			
Amal Hospital, ..... 674155			
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199			
ZARQA:			
Zarga Govt. Hospital			
(09) 83323			
Zarga National Hospital (09) 800560			
Jbn Sina Hospital (09) 86732			
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09) 890190			
IRBID:			
Princess Basma Hospital (02) 275555			
Greek Catholic Hospital (02) 272275			
Jbn Al Nafees Hospital (02) 247100			

AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital (03) 314111	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) International department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532001 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or (08) 532501.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)	
09:25 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)	
10:15 ..... Laranea (RJ)	
10:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
17:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)	
18:05 ..... Istanbul (RJ)	
18:05 ..... Paris (RJ)	
18:40 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)	
19:05 ..... Rome (RJ)	
19:10 ..... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)	
19:10 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)	
19:50 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)	
21:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)	
00:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)	
01:05 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
04:25 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	
Other Flights	
09:15 ..... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)	
11:00 ..... Sanaa, Hudaidah (Y)	
12:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)	
13:00 ..... Al'Arish (PF)	
13:10 ..... Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)	
13:15 ..... Cairo (MS)	
13:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)	
14:30 ..... Tunis (TU)	
15:05 ..... Vienna (OS)	
16:20 ..... Algiers (AF)	
17:00 ..... Doha (Q7)	
19:30 ..... Istanbul, Damascus (PK)	
20:40 ..... London (GA)	
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)	
21:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)	
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)	
23:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)	
23:30 ..... Athens (OA)	
05:15 ..... Ankara (TK)	
07:50 ..... Amsterdam (RJ)	
DEPARTURES	
07:00 ..... Laranea (RJ)	
10:50 ..... Rome (RJ)	
11:45 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)	
11:45 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
04:00 ..... Athens (OA)	
06:15 ..... Istanbul (TK)	
06:50 ..... Damascus (PK)	
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)	
08:50 ..... Amsterdam (GA)	
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15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)	
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21:40 ..... Denpasar (GA)	
23:55 ..... Damascus, Paris (AF)	
00:25 ..... Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)	
04:00 ..... Ankara (TK)	
04:00 ..... Athens (OA)	
06:15 ..... Istanbul (TK)	

Home N

Prime minister meeting to me

Composer blends

WHAT'S C

LECTURE

EXHIBITIONS





HRH Prince Ra'ed Bin Zaid Tuesday discusses issues related to persons with disabilities with Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat. During a meeting held at the Ministry of Education, the Prince stressed the need for conducting a comprehensive national survey for the handicapped to identify the scale of the problem in order to develop new programmes.

## Prime minister reports on Cairo meeting to members of Cabinet

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday reported to the Cabinet on a meeting held earlier this week in Cairo by the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

The premier detailed agreements reached by the two sides on promoting bilateral cooperation in health, tourism, labour, culture, energy, power linkage and other issues.

Subsequent to the Cabinet session, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi reported that Dr. Majali gave details of talks with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Jazouli as well as those of his meeting with President Hosni Mubarak to whom he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein.

Dr. Majali briefed ministers on talks regarding political developments pertaining to the Middle East peace process as well as those obstacles obstructing its full attainment.

During the Cairo meeting, the premier affirmed Jordan's full support for Egyptian endeavours to end the deadlock in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Also according to Dr. Mutawi, Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi gave a report regarding his visit to the Republic of Ireland, where he concluded an agreement on the training of Jordanian doctors and nurses in Irish hospitals.

He also discussed post-graduate degrees for med-

ical staff in their respective specialties.

Dr. Kurdi detailed primary health care, health insurance systems and inspection methods for combating Creutzfeldt-Jakob ("mad cow") disease as practised in Ireland.

Upon a recommendation from Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, the Cabinet approved a World Bank loan to Jordan, totalling \$32 million, to finance tourism projects in the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, Wadi Rum, Jerash, and Karak.

The Cabinet also approved a loan agreement under which Jordan is to receive 7.1 billion yen from the Japanese government to finance a project for human resources development, Dr. Mutawi said.

Cabinet members reviewed memoranda submitted by the ministers of finance and interior regarding a five-year plan for the development and modernisation of the Civil Defence System in Jordan. According to Dr. Mutawi, the Cabinet rejected a request for funds for this project.

The general financial situation does not permit any allocation of funds for this project, however, the Cabinet has decided to seek cooperation between the private and public sectors to help ease the burden on the Civil Defence Authority, Dr. Mutawi stated.

He added that efforts will be exerted to secure external help and involve Jordanian businesses and fac-

ilities in this project.

Jordan will also participate in a tourism conference and exhibit in Tokyo as well as send representatives to an international tourism market in London.

Both events are to take place in November.

Dr. Khalaf was requested to head a Jordanian delegation to hold talks next month with the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank and the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to discuss loans to finance the government-sponsored social security package.

The Cabinet approved a request by the Jordan Central Bank to sell 750,000 of its shares in the Housing Bank whose nominal value is JD 750,000, Dr. Mutawi stated.

In reply to a question about recent posters affixed by Jewish settlers, defaming the Prophet Mohammad as well as a subsequent reported destruction of the Koran, Dr. Mutawi declared the Jordanian government's condemnation of such acts.

These practices reflect extremism and encroach on religious sentiment, he added.

The government will express its reaction through diplomatic channels, Dr. Mutawi said.

The Foreign Ministry will hold meetings with Israel to facilitate the process of issuing visas to Jordanian citizens and remove obstacles in the way of travellers who enter that country, he concluded.

## Controversy resurfaces over Christian party

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After having been overlooked and nearly forgotten by the press and political circles for around seven months, the controversy over the establishment of a Christian party has resurfaced.

Ironically, the dispute is being fuelled by some Christian professionals and church leaders who are fiercely opposing the actualisation of the projected Christian Arab Democratic Party (CADP).

They are reportedly addressing a press conference today to be chaired by the Roman Catholic Bishop Saleem Sayegh.

While over the past few days in the Arabic press his opponents have accused him of creating unnecessary divisions in a society which has long been a model of integration and Muslim-Christian fruitful co-existence, the architect of the potential party, Sami Siwady, laments "being persecuted."

"They do not want a Christian party in this country, and I cannot understand why, as we already have an Islamic party," Mr. Siwady said, referring to the Islamic Action Front (IAF). Jordan's strongest opposition party, registered in 1992, shortly after the resumption of the multi-party system in the Kingdom.

Responding to accusations of "fanaticism," Mr. Siwady reiterated to the Jordan Times on Tuesday that "more than half of CADP's supporters are Muslims," and that "around 55 of the over 100 signatures heretofore collected for the offi-

cial registration of the party at the Ministry of Interior are [those of] Muslims."

In a report published Tuesday, the Arabic daily Al-Dustour reported that the CADP may not conform to regulations stipulated under the 1992 Political Parties Law, as its leaders intend to open a branch in the West Bank and obtain official registration from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"I know that a political party cannot be registered in two countries at the same time, and therefore we are planning to found another party in the West Bank," Mr. Siwady responded.

Notwithstanding the high calibre and activism of his opponents, Mr. Siwady said that he and Tayseer Boshe, the temporary secretary general of the projected party, and a Muslim, will submit the application for official registration at the Ministry of Interior this week.

However, "the signatories need certificates testifying that they are not involved in any pending trial, and this is slowing the process," he affirmed.

The CADP will elect its leadership after becoming licensed, Mr. Siwady pointed out.

If registration procedures are completed on time, "we, as a party, will run in the next parliamentary elections (scheduled to take place this autumn), and will field both Muslim and Christian candidates," Mr. Siwady announced, leaving open the possibility that he, himself, might run.

Regardless of Mr. Siwady's determination, some leading Christians asked by the Jordan Times to express their opinion on the projected

Christian party did not conceal their disapproval.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, historian and Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan Mustafa Hamarneh described the CADP project as "counter-productive."

"I am against religious parties tout-court," echoed veteran leftist leader Issa Madanat.

"I am very strongly against it (the establishment of the CADP) as I believe that political parties, as pillars of democracy, should be opened to everybody and not have religious connotations," declared Anis Muasher, former minister of finance, prominent businessman, and deputy secretary general for financial and economic affairs in the National Constitutional Party (NCP).

In response to Mr. Siwady's assertion that the existence of the IAF in Jordan created a precedent and legitimised the establishment of a corresponding Christian political body, Mr. Muasher told the Jordan Times that "the IAF" started as a society, in a different historical and cultural context.

"We have had the example of Lebanon," where the consolidation of religious factions in political groups and militias degenerated in a bloody civil war that shattered the country for 15 years," Mr. Muasher stated.

The Christian elite, however, does not seem too worried by the projected party.

"The whole issue has been blown out of proportion by the media," Mr. Muasher concluded. "I doubt anybody is going to join this party."

## Alleged rape victim faces charges of perjury

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — New developments surfaced Tuesday in the case of three men facing charges of rape and statutory rape at the Criminal Court, when the alleged victim changed her previous court testimony.

She is now facing charges of perjury.

The three men, including a prominent Jordanian singer, are charged with having had sexual relations with a 17-year-old student on April 9 and 10.

Two of the three men, identified as T. N. and U. J., the singer, are charged with statutory rape, while the third defendant, J. A., is accused of rape.

However, during a two-hour closed session Tuesday, the alleged victim changed her earlier sworn testimony given to police and the criminal prosecutor in April.

She testified that T. N. did not ever have sexual relations with her, prompting the court to order her immediate detention for questioning.

"Due to the obvious contradictions in the witness testimony, I order that she be detained at a female juvenile centre and transferred to the Amman prosecutor for questioning," Presiding Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq said.

According to the charge sheet, the minor, who had been staying in the Marj Al Hamam area of Amman, fought with her father on April 9 and left the house.

She then reportedly wandered in the streets and signalled for cars to pull over and take her to a friend's house.

However, instead the driver who, according to the charge sheet, is the first defendant J. A., took her to a farm and convinced her to spend the night.

The suspect offered the minor alcohol and then raped her, the charge sheet said.

It added that the following day, the victim met with the other two suspects at a nightclub, left for T. N.'s house where, according to her first testimony to investigators, she engaged in sexual relations with both men.

The minor, who burst into tears upon hearing the court's decision to detain her, had earlier dropped charges against the three men, but according to the Jordanian Penal Code, they must still undergo a public trial.

The court tribunal which also included Justices Mifleh Mubaidin and Ibrahim Ali, postponed the case until Sept. 6 to hear additional prosecution witnesses.

## Three receive death sentence

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Tuesday sentenced a man and his two sons to death after they were declared guilty of killing a 28-year-old man in Tafleh in April of last year.

The court tribunal declared Omar Saleh, 48, and his two sons, Na'eem, 21, and Nashed, 19, guilty of the premeditated murder of Ibrahim Khleifat on April 27 in Prince Rashed Hospital in Tafleh.

According to court documents, one of Omar's sons, Nashed, was found dead in a deserted area in Tafleh several months prior to the incident, and the defendants suspected that Mr. Khleifat had killed him.

The defendants then filed a complaint to police charging that Mr. Khleifat killed their son, "however a forensic report indicated that Nashed had died of natural causes."

"Nashed's father and brothers did not agree with the autopsy results, continuing to insist instead that Mr. Khleifat killed their son, and asked their cousins Khalid Mohamad, 26, and his brother Imad 19, to aid in his murder," the court said.

On the morning of the incident, all five men, carrying unlicensed guns and switchblades, met in a Tafleh market and headed to Prince Rashed Hospital, "in which place they knew the victim was being treated."

As Mr. Khleifat was leaving the hospital, court transcripts said, Omar, Na'eem, and Nashed approached him and commenced shooting and stabbing him.

Imad and Khalid, acting as a cover, brandished guns and threatened passers-by

who approached," court transcripts said. According to the court, the two men yelled "we killed him because he deserved to die!"

The five men then hailed a cab and turned themselves in to police "claiming they killed Mr. Khleifat to avenge their son's death."

The court sentenced Khalid and Imad to a 15-year imprisonment term with temporary hard labour for complicity in Mr. Khleifat's murder.

All five verdicts, handed down by Justices Ahmad Momani, Marwan Dabbas and Abdul Hamid Sa'ad, will be automatically reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

### Woman found strangled in home

Meanwhile, police are searching for an assailant in connection with the murder of a 55-year-old woman near the Ministry of Justice in the Shmeisani area of Amman, an official source said.

The victim, Fakhrieh Kurdi, was found strangled in her house at around 3:00 p. m. Her daughters, who had returned home from work, found the body, the source said.

Theft is believed to be the motive behind the murder.

"The woman's jewellery was missing," the source said.

He added that the perpetrator locked the door and fled.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday evening said they were investigating the incident.

## QAFHS emphasises early intervention for children who are hearing-impaired

By Tanya Habjuqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Neglecting hearing loss in children is detrimental to their educational, emotional, and social well-being, Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech (QAFHS) doctor, Mohammed Nabulsi, affirmed Tuesday.

According to Dr. Nabulsi, early detection enables a child to be fitted for a hearing aid from a young age and begin auditory speech therapy.

"Unfortunately there is still some prejudice against the hearing impaired in certain schools," Dr. Nabulsi said. "They do not get a fair chance, although the past 15 years have shown improvement."

One fourth grader who exhibited profound hearing loss began therapy a few years ago and earned a score of 93% in his class this year, Dr. Nabulsi said.

QAFHS has recently moved into the second phase of the early detection campaign, focusing on hearing loss and speech therapy for children in the north of Jordan.

"We are launching a national campaign for the early detection of hearing loss in children between the ages of one and six," QAFHS Director Ibrahim Abu Khadra stated.

Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development, children in Al Amal school in Irbid are currently being tested for hearing loss and fitted for free hearing aids.

"We are now focusing on centres and schools which accommodate comprehensive teaching for deaf children, Dr. Nabulsi explained. "This is the only way the children can really develop their skills and progress."

Dr. Nabulsi was referring to the already completed first phase of the detection campaign in southern Jordan.

QAFHS began testing children in the southern districts of Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba, and Tafleh in 1987, offering free hearing aids to the needy, Mr. Abu Khadra said.

However, success was limited due to the lack of comprehensive training for the deaf, according to Dr. Nabulsi.

"There was no training available for auditory speech therapy," he said. "The children's development was [stunted] because there was no comprehensive rehabilitation offered."

Future developments in the south will include centres dealing with hearing and speech therapy, he added.

QAFHS recently completed an intensive training session of 10 special education teachers from various Ministry of Social Development centres throughout the Kingdom.

"We will continue training teachers so that we may develop comprehensive centres to aid deaf children," Dr. Nabulsi explained.

According to him, five per cent of the population suffer from hearing impediments.

When the Jordan Times inquired as to the cause of such a high rate of deafness, Dr. Nabulsi attributed it to inter-marriages within a given family.

He explained that the risk of passing hearing impediments onto one's children doubles when the parents are both carriers of the defective gene.

"Nonetheless, aiding those children now through early detection will improve the life of the child and parents," he asserted. "Developing these children's skills will allow them to become productive members of society."

The second phase will include training and testing for all needy children from northern districts such as Ajloun, Balqa, and Ma'arra. Mr. Abu-Khadra concluded.

The QAFHS, established in 1978 by the late Queen Alia, was the first centre for the deaf in the Kingdom.

Canada and Italy have funded medical equipment, hearing aids, and have also offered scholarships for audio and speech training, according to QAFHS officials.

## Composer blends Arabic essence with classic compositions

By Jean-Claude Elias  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Composer and pianist Agnes Bashir-Dzoditsoeva is well-known in Jordan's music circles for her versatility and dynamism.

One of the most sought-after piano teachers in Amman, she is also an acclaimed concert performer and perhaps before all, a truly original composer.

Having chosen to live in the Kingdom a few years ago, Ms. Bashir, originally

from the republic of Georgia, is married to Iraqi violinist, Fikri Bashir.

She has assimilated the Arab culture and language and has succeeded in integrating their essence and spirit in her compositions. Her best known work so far is the score she wrote for poems by the late Jabra Ibrahim Jabra. Her "Arabic Suite" however is no less original and musically interesting.

She has also given numerous solo and orchestral recitals in Jordan.

Earlier this year in May, Agnes Bashir was invited to France where she performed at the Theatre Moliere in Paris, along with Palestinian soprano Tania Tamari-Nasir, also well known to Amman music lovers.

The response of the French public was overwhelming. The celebrated Arab-French composer Patrick Lama also attended the event.

The concert triggered a series of invitations to the United States and Europe where Ms. Bashir was presented as a musician from Jordan and also as a woman.

The conference of the International Alliance of Women in Music (IAWM) in Los Angeles which Agnes Bashir attended last June was a huge success.

The magazine "Composers USA" subsequently published a story about Agnes Bashir in which she put the accent on the progress of music in Jordan and the achievements of the National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The IAWM promotes the music of women composers and performers.

Ms. Bashir has been invited to participate in a similar conference to take place in Italy in September 1997 in the city of Fuggi. The "Donne in Musica," the Italian equivalent of the Los Angeles conference, is organised by the Patricia Adkins Chitti Foundation.

There is also question of Agnes Bashir performing in the 1998 edition of the conference.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

"A Journey Through Millions of Years" by Ms. Catherine Hamarneh at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682).

### EXHIBITIONS

Photography exhibition by Jan Tassay, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.

Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

"Silver Jewelry exhibition" at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

Karim Rasim's works at the Orient Gallery, until July 10.

Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

"Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition" showing works of 60 Arab artists at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh until July 24.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Police apprehend suspected thieves

AMMAN (Petra) — Aqaba police forces Monday apprehended two men who allegedly stabbed two Egyptian workers and stole JD 90 from one of them in two separate incidents, Aqaba police sources said Tuesday. Both men have been referred to court, they added.

### Local companies awarded tenders

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Ibrahim Tarshuhi Tuesday endorsed a decision offering two tenders worth JD 43,900 to local contracting companies to implement two projects in Talbich and Irbid camps. The contracts include the construction of a two-storey headquarters for the Talbich Camp Services Improvement Committee as well as the connection of 150 houses in Irbid camp to a sewage network.



# Rift between Serbs could produce rival governments

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb hardliners have brushed aside international criticism and renewed calls for President Biljana Plavsic to resign in a power struggle that threatened to produce rival governments in Serb territory.

Opponents of Mrs. Plavsic allied with indicted war criminal and ex-President Radovan Karadzic scoffed at international warnings that they were flouting the law by refusing to accept a presidential decision to dissolve parliament.

"It is ironic that our constitution is interpreted by busy bodies from the international community," Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of the Bosnian presidency and a main ally of Mr. Karadzic, said late Monday.

"They have no right to do so, but they want to create even greater chaos here. No one has the right to get involved in our internal affairs," Mr. Krajisnik said in remarks broadcast on Bosnian Serb television.

The United States and European governments say Mrs. Plavsic acted in line with the constitution when she dissolved the Bosnian Serb Assembly last week and called new elections for Sept. 1.

With Mrs. Plavsic possessing the legal right to form a new government in a matter of days, diplomats were concerned two rival authorities could emerge splitting Serb territory into western and eastern halves.

The United Nations mission in Bosnia said some police units had sided with Mrs. Plavsic and were guarding her offices in the northwest town of Banja Luka.

A U.N. spokesman said International Police monitors were refusing to deal with the interior minister, a Karadzic loyalist whom Mrs. Plavsic tried to suspend a week ago.

Mrs. Plavsic has capitalised on resentment against the isolated party leadership ruling from the mountain village of Pale, outside Sarajevo.

Morale was running high among her supporters in Banja Luka, where large rallies were held over the weekend backing the president against the Pale leadership.

Western envoys called on Karadzic loyalists Monday to end censorship of the official television network and grant Mrs. Plavsic free access to the airwaves.

Although Mrs. Plavsic is a Nationalist ideologue, Western governments have lent her support because they say she has shown a willingness to cooperate with the Dayton Peace Accords to obtain reconstruction aid for Serb territory.

Mrs. Plavsic, a former Karadzic protegee, has broken with the ruling party leadership in peacetime, levelling charges of rampant corruption.

She has accused Mr. Karadzic and his circle of plundering Bosnia's Serb entity while ordinary Serbs struggle to survive in grinding poverty.

Trying to counter the charges, Mr. Krajisnik said on television that corruption in Serb territory was no worse than in other Balkan countries. He accused Mrs. Plavsic of acting like a monarch and demanded she resign.

The political turmoil has drawn attention again to the failure of major powers to arrest Mr. Karadzic and indicted war

criminals who continue to obstruct the peace process.

Mr. Karadzic was forced to step down as president a year ago under heavy international pressure but he has continued to wield influence and has scoffed at charges of genocide handed down by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal.

Fuelling speculation that Western policy might be shifting on the war crimes issue, U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen and a senior NATO official refused to rule out using allied troops to capture indicted war criminals, including Mr. Karadzic.

"Nothing has been ruled in or ruled out," Mr. Cohen told reporters as he travelled to the NATO summit in Madrid. "There has been no decision made. It has been the position of the (U.S.) administration that we will do whatever we can to strengthen the War Crimes Tribunal."

Mr. Krajisnik, however, suggested Mr. Karadzic planned to eventually return to the public arena. He said the wartime Serb leader had promised "not to interfere in politics until the post-Dayton period."

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb army commander, General Pero Colic Tuesday warned the international community to stay out of Bosnia's political affairs, in an interview published by the pro-government Serbian daily *Vecernje Novosti*.

His criticism came after the United States rallied Monday to Mrs. Plavsic who is locked in a bitter political battle with erstwhile hardline allies.

"Any outside interference is unacceptable. The problem we are faced with will be solved by the Republika Srpska's own institutions... International interpretations of our texts do not interest us," Gen. Colic warned.

Gen. Colic, an ally of top Bosnian Serb hardliner Momcilo Krajisnik, said there was "total unity" within army ranks and that the military would recognise "only the Republika Srpska's legal institutions."

On Monday U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in Madrid for a NATO summit, said the alliance, which leads the 31,000-strong peacekeeping force in Bosnia, should back Mrs. Plavsic.

The United States would be asking its NATO partners meeting here from Tuesday to take "coordinated action" to isolate Bosnian Serb leaders opposed to the full implementation of Bosnia's 1995 peace treaty, she added.

On Monday Mr. Krajisnik warned the international community that any interference in his country's political crisis would "signify the end of the application of the Dayton Peace Accords."

Mr. Krajisnik is a close ally of former Bosnian Serb chief Radovan Karadzic, whose supporters are in open conflict with Mrs. Plavsic for control of the Serb-run half of post-war Bosnia.

Washington has said it will not acknowledge decisions taken by the Serb parliament which Mrs. Plavsic dissolved Thursday. The parliament met Friday and Saturday in defiance of her decree and passed a law enabling it to strip her of her powers.

## 4 reported dead in Poland floods

WARSAW (R) — Four people have been killed in floods in southern Poland, Polish TV reported Monday, after days of heavy rain swelled some major rivers to danger levels.

The Polish cabinet held a crisis meeting to discuss the floods and Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz was leading an official delegation to observe developments in the worst affected provinces of Katowice, Walbrzych and Opole, government spokeswoman Aleksandra Jakubowska told a news conference.

The PAP news agency said some 400 people were evacuated in Opole province and over 120 houses were flooded in Katowice province.

Other reports from the affected areas told of many homes under threat, children evacuated from holiday camps, and underground gas, electricity and telecommunications facilities swamped in the Upper Silesia industrial area.

Army cadets, soldiers and police were being called in to reinforce fire brigades

dealing with the emergencies.

Mrs. Jakubowska said Czech officials, themselves battling floods, were emptying reservoirs into the Odra River which flows north into southwestern Poland.

"On July 6 the Czech side began emptying retention reservoirs into the Odra, which has worsened the situation," she said.

Police in the Czech Republic said a Vienna-Warsaw express train careered off a bridge and some of its cars plunged into floodwaters in the northeast Monday, injuring at least 64 passengers.

The bridge had apparently been weakened by floods.

The incident occurred on the Odra River south of Ostrava, the third biggest Czech city.

The Czech news agency CTK said torrential rain since the weekend was believed to have caused six deaths — two women and four men — but it stressed no casualty report had been independently confirmed.

About one-third of Ostrava was inundated, Czech

radio said.

A state of emergency was declared as road, railway, electricity, and telephone services were disrupted in many parts of the northeast and sources of drinking water tainted.

Officials issued appeals for potable water and emergency supplies as rivers kept rising.

Czechs marooned by flood waters had to scramble onto their rooftops in numerous towns and villages lining tributaries to the Opava and Morava rivers.

Forecasts throughout much of the region were for heavy rain through at least Tuesday, threatening low-lying regions including Ostrava and the city of Zlin further downstream.

Mrs. Jakubowska gave no details of financial losses caused by the rain, but said special budget reserves totalling 300 million zlotys (\$90 million) might not suffice to pay out possible compensation claims, and that some of the burden would have to be carried by insurers.

Elsewhere in the area torrential rain since the weekend was believed to have caused seven deaths, the Czech CTK news agency said.

About one-third of Ostrava, the country's third largest city, was inundated, Czech radio said.

Rail and road service to parts of the region have been suspended, and officials issued appeals for drinking water and emergency supplies as rivers continued to rise.

Two women and five men were believed to have died in the flooding, which swept away houses and cut off dozens of people, CTK said.

Marooned residents have had to scramble onto their rooftops as numerous towns and villages lining tributaries to the Opava and Morava rivers have been swamped.

A state of emergency has been declared and helicopters, soldiers, police and fire units sent from around the country.

Forecasts throughout much of the region were for heavy rain through at least Tuesday, threatening low-lying regions including Ostrava and the city of Zlin further downstream.

Under the decision reached at Amsterdam, if more than five new countries are taken in the EU must hold a new intergovernmental conference to overhaul its decision-making procedures, and that could prove tricky to achieve as some of the EU's smaller countries will be unwilling to cede power.

## 64 injured as Czech train plunges off bridge

PRAGUE (R) — An express train careered off a bridge and plunged into floodwaters in the Czech Republic Monday, injuring at least 64 passengers.

Some carriages from the Vienna-Warsaw Express ended up nearly half a mile away, police said.

The incident happened in the northeast of the country near the town of Ostrava shortly before 1 p.m. (1100 GMT).

"As far as we know there was no loss of life," a police spokesman said, adding that several carriages were still under water. The bridge had apparently been weakened by floods.

No further details of the crash were immediately available.

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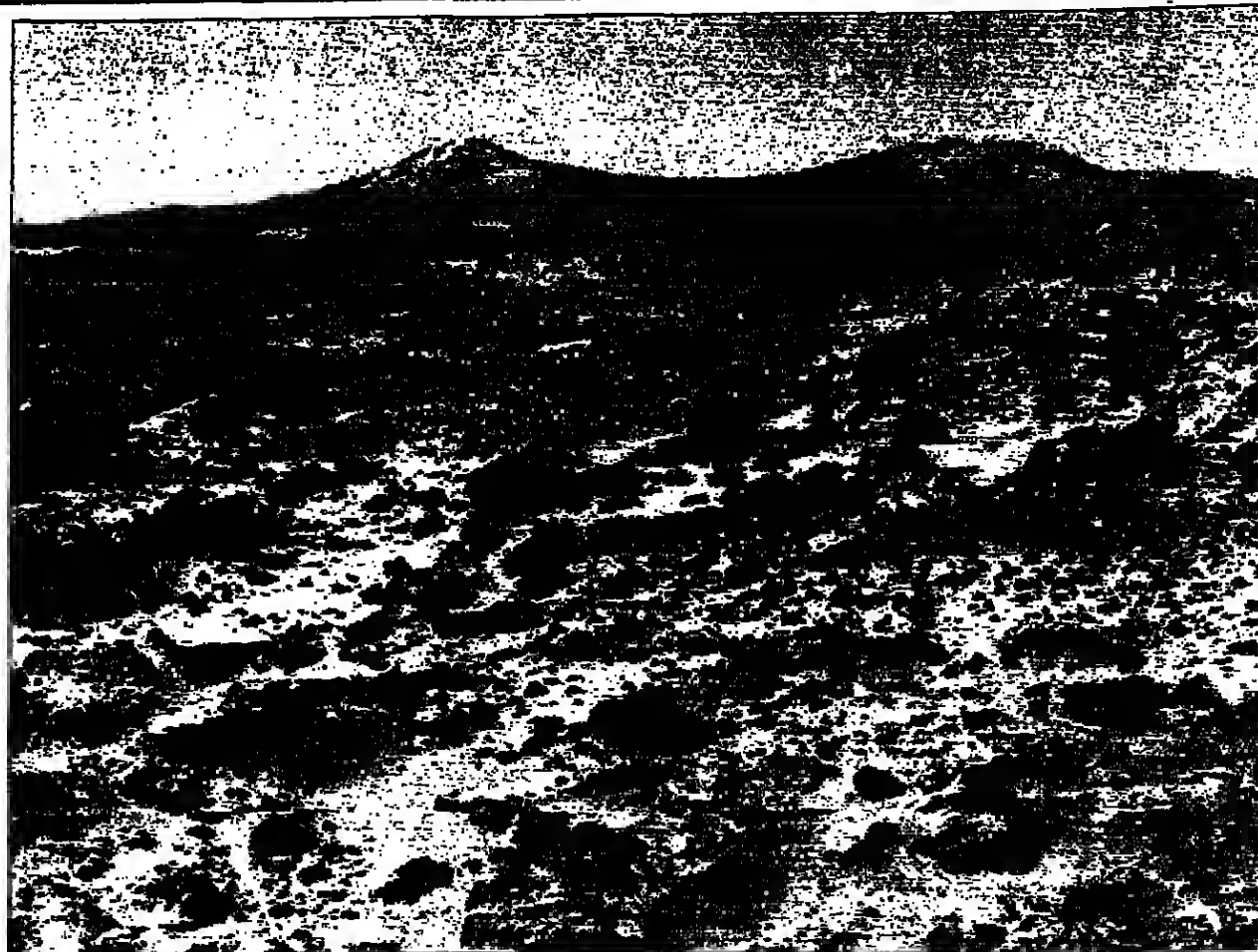
Rail and road service to parts of the region have been suspended, and officials issued appeals for drinking water and emergency supplies as rivers continued to rise.

Two women and five men were believed to have died in the flooding, which swept away houses and cut off dozens of people, CTK said.

Marooned residents have had to scramble onto their rooftops as numerous towns and villages lining tributaries to the Opava and Morava rivers have been swamped.

A state of emergency has been declared and helicopters, soldiers, police and fire units sent from around the country.

Under the decision reached at Amsterdam, if more than five new countries are taken in the EU must hold a new intergovernmental conference to overhaul its decision-making procedures, and that could prove tricky to achieve as some of the EU's smaller countries will be unwilling to cede power.



An image taken by the Imager for Mars Pathfinder (IMP) after its deployment on Sol 3 shows the two hills in the distance, approximately one or two kilometres away, which have been dubbed the 'Twin Peaks.' The white areas on the left hill, called the 'Ski Run' by scientists, may have been formed by hydraulic processes (Reuters photo)

## Scientists find evidence of massive Mars flooding

PASADENA (R) — Scientists Monday said the area around the Mars Pathfinder landing site was hit by a catastrophic flood billions of years ago.

Using pictures from the Pathfinder lander, scientists said floods around the Ares Vallis Basin were about the same size as those that created the Mediterranean Sea.

Michael Malin, one of the scientists, speculated the flooding was hundreds of kilometres wide and sent water surging at a rate of about 35 million cubic feet (one million cubic metres) per second.

"A comparable flood on Earth would be the one that filled the Mediterranean Basin," he told reporters.

Evidence of the flood could be seen by the fact that large boulders were stacked up against each other as if they had been pushed by the flood waters, Mr. Malin said.

He said he believed that crusts on the rocks were formed by salt and sediment from the flood waters as they receded and left puddles on the rocks. A similar crusting pattern could be seen on rocks in Hawaii thrown out by volcanic

activity, he added.

Mission scientist Matthew Golombek said the findings so far posed the question, "could early Mars have been much warmer and wetter?"

"The implications are enormous because liquid water is the key ingredient for life," he added.

One of the aims of the Mars Expeditionary Programme, which will send four more landers to various sites on the planet over the next eight years, is to discover if life, even in its most primitive form, ever existed on the red planet.

Scientists also want to know where the water went and what happened to what they believe was an atmosphere that was once as dense as Earth's but is now much thinner.

Signs of the flooding were clearly visible in what the Pathfinder scientists refer to as "The Monster Pan" — a vast panoramic view of the dusty red Martian surface and the salmon coloured sky so large that it is best viewed as a video.

The "Pan" is a composite made up of hundreds of images sent back by the Pathfinder spacecraft fol-

lowing its picture perfect landing on Mars last Friday. Other photos unveiled Monday showed the Sojourner rover backed up against a rock almost as big as itself, affectionately named "Barnacle Bill" by the crew at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Displaying the picture, Mr. Golombek told reporters: "This shows how the rover nestled up and affectionately kissed Barnacle Bill."

Sojourner, a six-wheeled vehicle about the size of a microwave oven, backed up to the rock late Sunday and scanned it with its alpha proton X-Ray spectrometer for 10 hours, sending a wealth of data back to Earth.

Scientists said Monday they hoped to be able to give at least a preliminary analysis of the rock's composition Tuesday. They hope to learn eventually how the planet was formed, what changes occurred over the years and whether life ever existed on Mars.

Mr. Golombek said "Barnacle Bill" was of particular interest because it is not dusted by the red Martian soil that covers other rocks.

The same is true of "Yogi," a much bigger rock that resembles a bear, which the rover will take a look at later Monday.

In addition, cameras on board Sojourner and the Pathfinder lander craft continued to send a stream of pictures back to Earth, including closeups of rocks and the sandy soil that covers much of the Martian surface.

Scientists have taken the opportunity for light relief in naming the rocks that show up in the pictures. One is named "Flat Top," another is "Casper" after "Casper The Ghost" because it has a whitish hue and one has been dubbed "The Couch" because it looks like one.

"Perfectly" was Mr. Golombek's favourite word Monday as he briefed reporters. "We had a very productive day (Sunday). The spacecraft is operating perfectly and the instruments are working perfectly," he said.

Even the computers on board the lander and the rover were speaking to each other "perfectly" following a communications glitch between the two that was overcome Saturday, he said.

## Mexico's PRI loses big, but not everything

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was hit with reverses on every front in a Monday press conference.

"We now have a majority party, the PRI, and well behind, there are second and third parties of nearly the same size," he said.

The PRI's goal had been to hit 42.1 per cent of the congressional vote, which under the complicated Mexican system would have been enough to give it an absolute majority.

But with 36.84 per cent of the deputy vote counted, the PRI had 38.65 per cent; the center-right National Action Party (PAN) 26.99 per cent; and the centre-left Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) 25.59 per cent.

PRD President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador Monday called his party's electoral results a "step forward for democracy in Mexico."

"We believe that anything that adds to Mexico's strength as a democracy is good for our common future," said U.S. President Bill Clinton in Madrid. "It doesn't matter how it (the vote) came out."

The election contributes to stability," Mr. Clinton's deputy national security advisor Jim Steinberg said. "There cannot be stability without an opportunity for the people to express their views, to feel that the government is elected."

To some extent, the PRI's lost ground is due not only to economic problems and anger over corruption but also a 1996 electoral reform that President Ernesto Zedillo and others in the party backed.

Mr. Zedillo said Monday the PRI's results "are very good," emphasising that, because the PRI "gave up advantages it used to have," the party has shown that in a fair electoral contest it can retain power.

"It seems to me that what's happened is that the PRI gave up with a whimper. Zedillo wanted a debate in the party and it seems to me that that's what he's going to get," said John Bailey, a Mexico expert at Georgetown University in Washington.

The actual number of deputies each party will have is uncertain.

But it is clear the PAN and Mr. Cardenas' centre-left PRD could make life diffi-

cult for Mr. Zedillo.

Both parties have said they want U.S.-style congressional corruption probes, and with the PRI holding the reins of power for decades they are a likely target.

The Chamber of Deputies must approve Mr. Zedillo's budget, and both the lower chamber and the Senate must approve taxation and debt. While the PRI suffered reverses in the Senate, too few seats were open to make it possible for the party to lose its majority there.

A big question now is how the PRI will react to the stinging defeat.

Analyst Victor Alvarez predicted an internal debate that would bring to the fore a new generation of PRI leaders that were "maybe not younger but would have a more modern viewpoint."

And Mr. Bailey predicted that Mexican politics would at last begin to see some charisma.

"I'd expect to see some personalities emerge. Discipline and conformity got rewarded in the past," he said. "You'll see people trying to define themselves. It's a whole new political culture."

The actual number of deputies each party will have is uncertain.

But it is clear the PAN and Mr. Cardenas' centre-left PRD could make life diffi-

## Child sex protests set for Belgian national day

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgians will renew street protests on their National Day holiday July 21 against perceived state inaction in the wake of a child sex murder scandal, organisers said Monday.

"After a year almost nothing has changed," said Desire Minnoye, representing the many White Committees set up after the bodies of four murdered children were found.

"Our hunger for change and renewal has not been stilled. We hoped the children's deaths would lead to serious efforts to take into account the wishes of the people, but in vain."

The committees adopted the colour white as a symbol of mourning, but also as a sign of hope that reports of bungling during the search for the children would spark an organisational overhaul of the police.

The White Committees plan to display banners and white balloons as close as possible to the royal palace during the July 21 military parade in Brussels, Ms. Minnoye said.

Flowers will be laid by the central Brussels Monument for All Missing and Dead Children and a wreath would be placed outside parliament, she said in a statement.

The National Day demonstrations would seek to revive

n nationwide groundswell of concern and sympathy which erupted after the discovery of the sexually abused bodies of two girls and two teenagers in August last year.

The chief suspect in the case is Marc Dutroux, a convicted sex offender released from prison in 1992 after serving just two years of a 13-year sentence for raping five children. He has been in detention since last August.





North Koreans bow their heads in Pyongyang Tuesday during a national memorial service on the third anniversary of the death of late President Kim Il-Sung. North Korea declared that the official three-year mourning period was over, signalling the start of a new stage in the country's political development. The photograph was taken in Tokyo off a television broadcast from Pyongyang by North Korea's official television KRT (Reuter photo)

## N. Korea ends mourning for Kim Il-Sung

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea Tuesday declared an end to a three-year period of mourning for President Kim Il-Sung, paving the way for his eldest son to take absolute power in a nation stricken by hunger and bristling with military might.

"Great leader comrade Kim Jong-Il" attended a national meeting in Pyongyang for the third anniversary of his father's death, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and official radio broadcasts monitored here reported.

But the reclusive leader was identified only by his present titles, chairman of the National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the People's Armed Forces, indicating he has yet to officially succeed his father.

North Korean officials have hinted the younger Kim, 55, would assume the top state posts vacated by his father — state president

and general secretary of the all-powerful Workers Party — after the mourning period ended.

Memorial addresses at the meeting vowed to defend the younger Kim, the military commander-in-chief since late 1991, as the only rightful successor.

The rally took place at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the body of the late Kim is preserved. For nearly 50 years Kim, who died aged 82, ruled the northern half of the divided Korean Peninsula with an iron grip.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-Nam called the memorial meeting a "solemn occasion with which the period of mourning expires."

In an address carried by KCNA, he stressed that the late president solved "the question of inheritance of the leadership with a high sense of responsibility for socialism and the future of the people."

He confirmed that the secretive Stalinist state remained in a state of heightened vigilance while its acute food shortages and other economic woes forced it to appeal for international aid.

"Today imperialists and reactionaries are intensifying their campaign against socialism and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the world arena," Mr. Kim Yong-Nam said.

"With a view to coping with the grave situation of the country, comrade Kim Jong-Il placed the military affairs ahead of all other state affairs."

Speculation has been rife among Pyongyang watchers that the junior Kim might become president on Sept. 9, the anniversary of the founding of North Korea, and party chief on Oct. 10, the Workers Party's birthday.

After two years of severe flooding, North Korea has

agreed to discuss with South Korea, the United States and China ways to establish durable peace on the peninsula — on condition of more food aid.

But, at the same time, North Korea has stepped up warnings to its 23 million people about external pressures to change their rigid system.

At the memorial meeting, Vice-Marshal Jo Myong-Rok, director of the army's political department, said the North Korean military was ready to "answer the 'retaliation' of the enemies with retaliation, an all-out war with an all-out war."

"If the enemies dare pull the trigger of aggression, our People's Army will pull the trigger of retaliatory blow in no time — mercilessly annihilate the U.S. imperialist aggressors, their followers, and the South Korean puppets," he said.

## Policeman shot as Northern Ireland violence flares anew

BELFAST (R) — A Northern Ireland policeman was shot and wounded on Portadown's Garvaghy Road early Tuesday in fresh violence sparked by the routing of a Protestant parade down the same road Sunday.

Witnesses said the policeman was injured when five shots rang out during disturbances involving Catholic demonstrators. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

He was the second member of the security forces to be shot since the latest upsurge of violence in Northern Ireland began last weekend. A policewoman suffered facial injuries when she was shot in a patrol vehicle in Coalisland, northwest of Belfast, Sunday.

The attack in rural Portadown was assumed to be the work of Irish Republican Army (IRA) gunmen fighting British rule in Northern Ireland or a breakaway group exacting revenge for the refusal of the authorities to ban Sunday's Orange Order parade.

The wave of violence which swept across the province Sunday ebbed somewhat after the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, appealed for a "calm and dignified protest."

Police said there were several incidents overnight in which Catholic youths hijacked cars and set them ablaze. Some gunshots were fired at security forces in Catholic West Belfast.

Anger was still running high and threatened to blaze again at the weekend when Protestant organisations held two flashpoint marches

in Catholic areas despite vigorous opposition by residents.

A Belfast reporter, Ivan Little, told a local radio station that he had been invited to a clandestine news conference by heavily-armed Loyalist guerrillas who told him they would defend Protestant areas if attacked by Catholics.

Loyalists are officially observing a truce they called in October 1994 but have been blamed by police for a series of attacks against Catholic targets in the past six months.

They have not been involved in any of the violence over the Portadown parade and it was the first time the guerrillas had been linked to current Northern Ireland tension.

Police were investigating the death of a Protestant youth who apparently died in an explosion in south Belfast but refused to confirm or deny speculation that he was handling a bomb. Some reports said he was a well-known Loyalist.

Britain's embattled Northern Ireland secretary, Mo Mowlam, said the circumstances surrounding his death were unclear but added: "One death is one death too many. Northern Ireland has seen too much tragedy. Violence solves nothing. It accomplishes nothing."

If the death was linked to guerrilla violence, it would be the first fatality since the worst violence for years engulfed Northern Ireland after police allowed the Orange Order march through a Catholic enclave of Portadown Sunday.

Mrs. Mowlam was expected to be questioned about a report that she and her advisers decided three weeks ago to rush Sunday's Orange Order parade down the Catholic Garvaghy Road Area of Portadown.

The report in London's Independent newspaper, quoted a confidential government document as saying the decision was the "least worst option" and contradicted Mrs. Mowlam's public version that the move was a last-minute decision after mediation attempts failed.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair refused to bury a faltering Northern Ireland peace process sponsored by the London and Dublin governments.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, urged youths to end riots and car hijackings which turned Irish Nationalist ghettos into no-go zones and IRA traps for police and British troops.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams appealed for calm and dignified protest but blamed Britain for igniting the anger.

Martin McGuinness, an elected member of the British Parliament and Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, said he was struck on the head by police in scuffles around a Catholic demonstration against a Protestant band parade in Bellaghy.

The march passed off relatively peacefully but Catholic activists said they expected massed opposition Saturday to a parade down the Lower Ormeau road of South Belfast, scene of violent clashes in previous

years. The parade takes place on the "Glorious Twelfth," the 12th of July anniversary of a 1690 battle victory by King James over an invading Catholic king which the Orange Order sees as the most cherished date in its calendar.

Mrs. Mowlam held brief talks Monday night with leaders of the Orange Order, who are determined they will march down the road despite threats of protest by local Catholic community chiefs.

There was no immediate sign the Orange Order might agree to any rerouting of the march. Jeffrey Donaldson, assistant grand master of the order, said the violence was the fault of Irish Nationalists alone and his organisation was not to blame.

"We do try to take on board legitimate concerns. But Orangemen have rights as well, enshrined in international law," he told British television. The order says it wants only to walk peacefully along public roads which belong to no group.

The Apprentice Boys, another Protestant organisation, is also planning a Saturday parade in Northern Ireland's second city of Londonderry, birthplace of militant Irish Nationalism and scene of violent protest over the weekend.

More than 100 people have been injured since Sunday, including two 14-year-old youths, one a Protestant struck by a stray bullet and the other a Catholic hit by a plastic bullet.

## Sri Lankan rebels hijack ship with 38 N. Koreans aboard

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger rebels hijacked a North Korean cargo ship off northern Sri Lanka Tuesday and abducted the 38-member crew as fighting in the country killed 25 people, officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) surrounded the MV Morang Bong off the northern peninsula of Jaffna overnight and commandeered the 3,000-tonne vessel to a nearby rebel stronghold, officials said.

"The ship had a crew of 38 North Koreans," a spokesman for the local agent of the civilian ship said. "We have no information about the fate of the crew but we have asked the owners to get in touch with the Red Cross."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had secured the release of Indonesian crew members whom the Tigers abducted after torching a passenger ferry off the island's northwestern coast on July 1.

Defence officials said they could not recapture the ship because it was anchored near a rebel base and a rescue operation was too dangerous.

"Obviously the Tigers have taken the ship to take

its fuel, power generators and other sophisticated equipment," a military spokesman here said.

Navy sources said the North Korean general cargo carrier was returning empty to the capital Colombo when it was surrounded by Tiger boats and forced to a rebel base in the northeastern district of Mullaitivu.

The agent for the ship said it was operating a cargo service for private traders taking food and other commodities to the small pier of Point Pedro, the northernmost point in the island, in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Security forces are engaged in a major ground offensive aimed at opening a land route to Jaffna which was wrested from rebel control in December 1995. However, land access to the region is held by the Tigers.

"When the ships are attacked like this it will be very difficult for the government to keep Jaffna supplied," said Tamil legislator Dhamalingam Sathanathan. "Tigers are clearly trying to cripple the sea route."

Mr. Sathanathan, who leads the anti-LTTE Democratic People's Liberation Front, said the attacks will scare ferry operators as well as Tamil civilians wanting to travel to Jaffna.

## Scientists work to identify 'Che' Guevara's bones

SANTA CRUZ (R) — A team of Latin American scientists Monday began the slow task of identifying what they believe are the bones of legendary guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara, 30 years after he was shot by Bolivian troops.

A skeleton, including a skull which the Cuban scientific team leader said bore the heavy features of the charismatic revolutionary, was taken from a mass grave in a mountain village Sunday to the east Bolivian city of Santa Cruz.

While Doctor Jorge Gonzalez insisted final verification of the remains would take five days, his Cuban, Argentine and Bolivian team members did not hide their optimism that they had found Guevara.

The skeleton — one of the remains of seven supposed leftist guerrillas buried in a mass grave near the village of Vallegrande in 1967 — was found without its hands.

The Bolivian troops who executed the Communist icon in October 1967 cut off his hands so his fingerprints would serve as proof he was dead. They buried him in a secret location.

"We maintain our rigorously scientific position that still does not allow us to say anything for certain," said Dr. Gonzalez, "everything said today about the identification of the bones is purely

the responsibility of journalists."

But Dr. Gonzalez said over the weekend he felt a "personal conviction" that the bones were Guevara's. He said work at Santa Cruz's Japanese Hospital was beginning with a meticulous cleaning of the bones from the seven sets of skeletons and that scientists would begin to measure and reconstruct broken pieces Tuesday.

There is abundant data about Guevara's appearance and dental records, including the results of an official autopsy, which recorded that he was executed with a burst of nine bullets.

The Argentine-born doctor and hero of Cuba's 1959 revolution was trying to export communism to South America's mainland when he was captured, wounded and starving, on Oct. 8, 1967, and shot by a soldier in Vallegrande's school.

Bolivia began the quest for Guevara's bones in December 1995 after retired General Mario Vargas Salinas broke two decades of military silence to say he could identify the spot where he ordered the burial of the guerrillas.

But he failed to locate the spot and the search has since been repeatedly suspended and resumed, with excavations centering on an airstrip outside Vallegrande.

## Hollywood bids farewell to actor Jimmy Stewart

BEVERLY HILLS (R) — Hollywood bid a final farewell Monday to one of the greatest stars from the golden age of movies — Jimmy Stewart.

Dozens of fans crammed trendy Rodeo Drive outside the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church where many of Stewart's long-time friends and colleagues attended a memorial service.

The actor, who died last Wednesday of a heart attack at the age of 89, was buried earlier in the day at a private funeral at a Los Angeles cemetery. He had been a virtual recluse since his wife, Gloria, died in 1994.

Nancy Reagan was at the service Monday, but without her husband, former President Ronald Reagan, who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease and is rarely seen in public.

A frail-looking Bob Hope attended with his wife Dolores, as did two of Stewart's big-screen leading ladies, June Allyson and Esther Williams. Actor Robert Stack and Comedienne Carol Burnett were also among the

75-strong congregation. Inside the Spanish-style church, Reverend James Morrison eulogised Stewart as a war hero, who served his country in the World War II.

Later, a hanger from the air force played "Taps" (The Last Post) for a man who flew bombing missions over Germany and ended the war the highest-ranking Hollywood star in the U.S. Armed Services.

He won the distinguished Flying Cross and later served in the air force reserve for many years. "He was a man ... of great success, but he would never have measured success as most measure it today, in terms of status, position, wealth," Rev. Morrison told the congregation.

"He would measure success in the ability that one had to relate to other people and enrich a life, and indeed he did enrich lives." The minister noted that Stewart was a long-time Presbyterian, who regularly attended services at the church just a block away from the ritzy shops of Rodeo Drive — a symbol

of conspicuous materialism many of Stewart's screen characters might have rejected. He was remembered by fans as portraying a decent American "everyman" in many of his nearly 80 films.

"He probably epitomised what is best about America," said Linda Brown, a tourist from Jacksonville, Florida, outside the church. Her husband Quince said: "Jimmy Stewart was one of the greatest actors. There will never be another."

Stewart's twin daughters Judy and Kelly and his stepson, Michael McLean, were accompanied into the church for the 45-minute service by an air force honour guard.

"When they played 'Taps,' we all fell apart," Edie Wasserman, wife of legendary Hollywood studio executive Lew Wasserman, told reporters after the service.

"He was the most loyal, honest and true gentleman I ever knew," said Ms. Allyson, who played opposite Stewart in The Glenn Miller Story.

President Reagan, a former actor who presented Stewart with a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985, last week mourned the loss of a "close, close friend."

"We shared so many of life's precious moments with him and with Gloria," Mr. Reagan and his wife, Nancy, said in a statement.

"We'll miss him terribly, but we know they're happy to be together once again."

Daily Variety, the trade paper of Hollywood, carried two full-page tributes to Stewart Monday.

One, from Republic Pictures, showed the actor in a still from It's A Wonderful Life surrounded by his screen wife Donna Reed and their children.

"Every time a bell rings, we'll think of you" it said, in a paraphrase of the line from the film in which his daughter said everytime a bell rings, an angel gets his wings.

Sony Pictures had an ad showing Stewart in a still from Mr. Smith Goes to Washington saying simply: "Farewell, Mr. Smith."

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1971  
مجلس التحرير العربية مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6843111, 6996334

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Myopia vs peace

THE GENERIC internal crisis in Israel that sprang up lately over Ariel Sharon's appointment as finance minister, and his insistence that he would accept the position only after he is accepted as a member of the 'inner circle of ministers' which is responsible for peace negotiations with the Palestinians, is not really much of a crisis, and the appointment of Yaakov Neeman instead of Sharon, is not much of a solution either, at least as far as peace is concerned.

What remains is that the Israeli cabinet, as it stood at the time of elections, and as it stands today, has managed to stay busy over several internal crises related to its own survival, that is its own political interests versus the interests of Israel as a country. But it is yet to learn the basic concept of coexistence; the basis for any possible true peace in the region and subsequently the stability of the political system in Israel itself.

The belief that Sharon's acceptance in the 'inner circle' would have put the peace process in deeper crisis is inaccurate; Benjamin Netanyahu's 'inner circle,' with or without Sharon, could not have done much more to halt the peace process and again bring the whole region to the edge of armed conflict.

The fact that the post in question is that of finance, it is being reported that it will be easier for Arabs to talk dollars and cents with another man than Sharon, whose history is rich with hostility and extremism towards the Arabs. But this is not the problem, not at least for now. The real problem is Netanyahu's ongoing intransigence and the set of priorities he has established for himself and his fragile coalition, priorities that have managed to alienate Israel's peace partners.

The Middle East and North Africa summit to be held in Doha, Qatar, is proof of this; for it is not Israel's internal crisis that has managed to establish such a unified Arab front against normalisation with Israel, it is the fact that the Likud-led government has not yet begun to seek a fair and lasting settlement with the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World.

Sure enough, the fragile coalition that is being used as an excuse for Israel's anti-peace politics makes the right-wing cabinet seem very weak, but what makes the whole formula of peace truly feeble is the fact that Netanyahu is not worried about what makes or breaks the future of Israel and the region as much as he is worried about what keeps his reign, even at a huge cost that Israel will eventually have to pay.

Until a dramatic change of 'inner circle' strategy comes about, it does not matter whether it is a Neeman vs Sharon case, or inner vs outer circles case. It is and will be a matter of the peace vs the war camp. It is a matter of the future of the region as a whole.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm decried some Arab countries' conduct of denying Palestinians holding travel documents or temporary passports the right to travel freely in the Arab World. Riham Farra said that the Palestinians are in need to move about and earn a living now that they are living in the diaspora, awaiting a solution for their problem and their repatriation. The writer said that some Arab governments, which prevent entry of Palestinians with these documents, justify their measure by saying that they do not wish to see the displaced Palestinians settle permanently in the Arab World and increase the demographic burden there. Other governments justify this by saying that the prevention is in response to a request by the Palestinian leadership which, they claim, has demanded that the refugees remain in their present location until a final settlement for their problem has been found, added the writer. She said the Palestinians should be allowed to live freely in the Arab World until the time has come for their repatriation and demanded a quick solution to their travel problems. The writer said the Palestinian leadership should interfere and secure for the Palestinians the right to travel and end their isolation and imprisonment in the camps.

A WRITER for Al Dustour reflected on the situation in the Arab World and compared it to the situation in Europe, saying that while the Arabs are going more and more backward and facing poverty, the Europeans are finding ways to overcome the consequences of the wars they had among themselves and unifying their countries to ensure continued prosperity in the future. Rakan Majali quoted recent U.N. statistics which showed that one third of the Arab World lives in poverty at a time when the Arab countries' food import bill is rising every year as the population continually grows, without any solution in sight. Noting that the Arab World has millions of dynamos of arable land that remain uncultivated, the writer said that the Arab governments possess vast funds stashed in foreign banks and benefiting Europeans and Americans' drive to achieve further prosperity and very little is invested in Arab states. The writer said that while the enemies of the past, among the Europeans, are seeking unity, the Arabs, who claim they have the same aspirations, language and faith remain in disarray and move backwards, with many of their people facing poverty and starvation. He said that unless the Arab countries remove the barriers that divide them and unless they seek solidarity, there is no chance for the attainment of prosperity enjoyed by the European nations.

## Washington Watch

# Netanyahu's first year — a truly 'clean break' from the Oslo agreements

By Dr. James J. Zogby

FOR MONTHS now, Israel has been gripped by the ongoing drama playing out within the year-old Netanyahu government. The quick-tongued, media-savvy prime minister has shown in his first year in office that he could win an election, but has difficulty holding together an unruly coalition.

If Israel's new election law was designed to produce a strong executive, it has yielded the opposite. The prime minister won his election by a mere percentage point. Since his party did not win a majority, in order to form a government he was forced to forge a coalition with seven diverse political parties.

To do so, Netanyahu had to be shifty and quick-footed. That he was, but he was not honest. The new prime minister displayed the same lack of veracity in dealing with his own political allies as he did in his public pronouncements and his private dealings with Arab leaders. As a result, the quick-footed prime minister has repeatedly tripped over his own feet.

Broken promises, secret deals and bad-faith manipulations have cost Netanyahu dearly. Not only has he alienated several Arab and Western leaders, he has also lost support from within his own government. The story in Israel for the past few months has been one of repeated crises that have rocked the Netanyahu government. There have been scandals and there have been defections from his cabinet, followed by harsh criticisms from the prime minister's former allies. Netanyahu has survived, but he has been weakened.

It is now conceivable that the Netanyahu premiership may not survive to the year 2000. Some Israelis now expect the prime minister to fall by mid-1998.

It is also likely that Netanyahu may not survive a future internal election within his own party. The competition to replace him, in part, explains the machinations of his ex-Finance Minister Dan Meridor (who resigned in protest), his finance minister-designate, Ariel Sharon (who is a

master of intra-party manipulation) and his Foreign Minister David Levy (another master manipulator, who is playing for a post-Netanyahu position).

But through all of these self-imposed wounds, the prime minister can point to at least one area where he has succeeded. While feigning a commitment to honour Oslo, Netanyahu also committed himself to making a 'clean break' with the Oslo ground rules.

**"Thus, despite the inability of the prime minister to hold together his own coalition, from an Arab perspective, the prime minister's first year record is clear. He did what he set out to do. Israelis may joke that they cannot believe anything their prime minister tells them, but to the Arabs, Netanyahu's actions have been quite direct."**

The break was not so clean, but it has been real. In one year, the prime minister virtually dismantled the process he inherited. This is one area where he was true to his word, where he fulfilled his commitments.

The Syrian and Lebanese fronts, already stalled and wounded during Labour's rule, have received serious new blows. By rejecting progress that had been made during his predecessor's tenure, and ratcheting up the rhetorical ante, Netanyahu has sought to make negotiations with Syria impossible.

On the Palestinian front, Netanyahu also sought to and succeeded in writing his own rules, thereby ending progress on that track as well.

Netanyahu took issues that had been negotiated but not implemented, and declared it necessary to renegotiate their terms. As a result, Oslo, which had already been deformed, was left dismembered. Instead of seeing incremental steps towards realisation of their rights, Palestinians were locked into isolated

'cantons' with their economy in shambles.

At the beginning of his tenure, the U.S. urged the Arabs to 'wait and see' how the new prime minister would function. It was argued that Netanyahu may only be a captive of his right wing coalition and not its leader, and that as he gained experience and confidence, he might show himself to be a pragmatist who could lead his right-wing coalition to make the needed compromises for

or dissembled honouring commitments made to the Palestinians as part of the Hebron package. Thus far, there has been no movement on the port and airport for Gaza, the long-promised safe passage road between Gaza and the West Bank, no movement on economic development for the crippled Palestinian economy and an insulting offer to redeploy Israeli troops from only two per cent of the West Bank.

Thus, despite the inability of the prime minister to hold together his own coalition, from an Arab perspective, the prime minister's first year record is clear. He did what he set out to do. Israelis may joke that they cannot believe anything their prime minister tells them, but to the Arabs, Netanyahu's actions have been quite direct."

In a recent interview evaluating his first year in office, Netanyahu said as much. He claimed that he had been victorious in accomplishing his objectives of stopping Israel from returning to its '67 borders and dividing Jerusalem.

Netanyahu said: "I know people are anxious and afraid. They ask 'where is all this leading?' But you must understand if we don't want to return to shrunken borders... and if we don't want to divide Jerusalem, then we must show the ability to stand firm and emerge strengthened from this period."

The Israeli prime minister went on to observe that "the price is that the Palestinians don't accept this and are trying to bring back the old rules. I know they are having a difficult time getting used to us."

What should be of even greater concern to the Arab World is that despite the prime minister's rejection of the formula for peace and his obvious domestic political problem, there is no relief in sight.

Should Netanyahu be removed by the Knesset, those in Likud who seek to replace him are clearly no better. Benny Begin, Dan Meridor and Ariel Sharon, though different in many respects, are also hardline rightists, no more willing to

honour the mutual recognition and land for peace formulae of Oslo. And with Netanyahu having recruited more religious rightists to Likud, that party's politics will be hardened to the future.

Even more disturbing is the effect that Netanyahu has had on shifting the entire policy debate in Israel to the right. While seeking to lower Arab expectations of what peace will yield, Netanyahu has sought to raise Israeli expectations of what they can and must keep in any peace agreement.

It is instructive to note that while sharply criticising Netanyahu's governing style and his failure to move towards peace, Labour's new leader, Ehud Barak, has committed himself to a peace proposal that appears to differ little from the 'map' put forward by Netanyahu.

Both leaders insist that, — there be no return to the '67 borders; — greater Jerusalem remain united under Israeli sovereignty and borders be expanded to include the Maale Adumim bloc to the east;

— the majority of Israeli settlers in the West Bank remain under Israeli sovereignty; and

— the Jordan River and its approaches remain under Israeli control.

Despite party rivalries and coalition instability, it has become quite possible that at this point in 'the era of Netanyahu' an Israeli consensus be focused on the shape of a final peace arrangement with the Palestinians. It is also quite clear that this Israeli consensus falls far short of minimum Palestinian needs and aspirations.

It is a far cry from the promise of Oslo. This Israeli drive to impose a distorted map on a captive Palestinian population represents the type of 'clean break' Netanyahu promised when he was elected one year ago. Despite his other obvious failings, the prime minister delivered on this promise and so far succeeded in dragging much of Israel along with him.

## LETTERS

To the Editor:

I APPLAUD Jomana Karadshah for her interesting letter "Boy, it's a boy!" (Jordan Times, July 3, 1997) and I strongly agree with her. Many women in our society accept their status of a reproduction machines. As Ms. Karadshah suggests, women should be encouraged to be stronger and get more educated.

I agree, but I emphasize strength. I believe that women in our society are educated academically. I believe there are more women students at the University of Jordan than men students (at least that was the case when I was a student there). However, many of them were not and are not ambitious. What really bothers me is that some, if

To the Editor:

I AM a Jordanian American who currently resides in the United States, and I am also a frequent reader of the Jordan Times.

To elaborate on the letter "Boy, it's a boy!" (Jordan Times, July 3, 1997), I would say that even women in the Western societies are not treated equally yet and some governments have passed laws against discrimination to protect minorities, including women.

The difference between women in our society and those in the Western countries is that in the

To the Editor:

I CANNOT describe the sadness I felt upon seeing the photo showing the torn pages of the Holy Koran (Jordan Times, July 7, 1997). I can only imagine how the schoolgirls must have felt seeing the walls defaced and, most of all, seeing

To the Editor:

THERE IS an emotional residue left behind from any fine work of art. We read a wonderful novel and the characters are alive in our minds days and weeks later, telling us something about ourselves. We listen to good music and feel our spirits rise to ethereal heights, or stand in front of a powerful painting, dazzled by the magical mixture of colour and texture, as if the artist had turned a spotlight on some aspect of life we had seen but never really lived.

## Women are men's equals

not many, were satisfied with just marrying and raising children. There is nothing wrong with marriage and raising children; however, their education and talents are wasted if they do that alone. I know this because I know many cases, including of friends and relatives. They were among the top students, but what a waste of talents and efforts.

Women, I believe, need more than academic education. They need to educate themselves socially. They should know that they can do whatever a man can do. They can be teachers, medical doctors, professors, engineers, scientists, prime ministers, parliament members, etc. They can

## Fighting for equality

West, women have "created" equality by organising and implementing changes and fighting for equal opportunities. Women in Jordan are just talking about it.

As far as education is concerned, the percentage of educated women is, surprisingly, higher in Jordan than it is in the West. As for preferring boys, even in the West it is preferable to have a boy in the family to carry the family name. But that

## No desecration allowed

the extreme lack of respect for the Holy Book.

It was not always so in Muslim history. There was a time when no one would have dared such

## Enriching art

Sometimes, this heavenly emotional state is interrupted by things such as empty Coca-Cola cans.

A few days ago, I attended the opening of an art exhibition of one of the pioneer artists in Jordan and was living the beauty of his paintings when some people started placing empty cans on the stands in front of the largest paintings. They did that perhaps out of mere artistic taste that inspired them to add their touch

excel and can be great mothers. They should believe that there is nothing wrong with working, with being independent and with being a leader. Until women stand for what is their right, most men will not change their attitudes.

As a Muslim, I believe the religious excuse is lame. Religion encourages women to work and to excel. Prophet Mohammad worked for his wife. She was his boss and employer.

As long as men keep interpreting religion without any regard for women and without understanding their issues, women will be the losers.

Osama K. Alshaykh

UC Berkeley

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does not mean that our daughters are not loved equally.

I am the father of two wonderful girls whom I love the most in my life. I would be happy to have a son who will carry my name to the next generation, but he certainly would not be treated any better than his sisters.

I think women in Jordan need to ask for and effect changes, and fight for equal opportunities.

Nedal Abu-Obeid,

nahu-obeid@spacey.net

a deed. How insignificant people's faith has become, unfortunately.

Shelia B. Cassidy

RIVME @pacbell.net

to the work of the artist or, more likely, because of lack of aesthetic awareness, due to the general degraded estimation of arts in our society.

However, in the end, the empty cans are removed, the gallery doors close, the music stops, but that spotlight remains, allowing us to see in new ways and maybe forcing us to stop the visual pollution in our daily life.

Maysoon Hasan Haymoor,

Amman.

## Pass the parcel

By Ali Kassay

"I WOULD like to send this envelope by registered mail, please," said the client as she presented a padded, addressed and sealed envelope to the post office clerk.

Normally, one would expect this official to check that the address is complete and decipherable, then to accept the consignment without further ado. This happens when people do their job in a mechanical fashion, without putting their heart and soul in their work. In Jordan, things are different. We do not allow official status to constrain our free and friendly spirit, nor to hinder our intellectual curiosity. So the officer inquired: "What is in it?"

Not getting in the spirit of things in the proper manner, the client explained that the contents of the envelope were none of his business, but her business, and in due course that of the recipient. His interest should stop at conveying the parcel from source to destination.

These words, which might be considered cutting, fell on deaf ears, if indeed they fell on any ears at all. By then the officer had been joined by a covey of his colleagues whose sense of the public good had led them to the sacrifice of putting aside their cups of tea and congregating around, to play a curious variation on the theme of pass the parcel, in which they passed the envelope from one to the other, each pausing to hold it against the light and feel it before advancing his theory on its mysterious contents.

"It feels like cloth," suggested one. "Yes," added another. "It must be commercial samples." "Not at all," interjected a third. "This is the padding of a nightgown." "It feels like cloth to me," insisted the first who held his ground with refreshing tenacity. "Anyway, we shall find out for sure when we put it through the X-ray machine," said a fourth, cutting doubt with certainty.

Keen to move on to the stage of the proceeding where she pays her money and gets on with her life, the client explained: "Look, if it's that important, it is a garment that I received by mail order and it turned out to be the wrong size, so I want to return it."

"I told you it was cloth," exclaimed the first officer, triumphantly. But his colleagues were not listening. They were all pointing accusatory looks at the client and shaking their heads disapprovingly at her attempt to pull a fast one. Eventually, one of them found utterance: "You mean that it is commercial samples." The woman assured him that it was nothing of the sort, and repeated her description of the contents of the envelope.

"Nevertheless, it is a parcel," said Mr. Take it in an unsealed container to the parcels office downtown, manifest the contents to the satisfaction of the customs, pay your dues plus export and sales taxes, seal the container in their presence, then have it stamped and signed by each one of them in turn. Then he added, to reassure the client of his magnanimity: "I shall not take you more than a day."

Which leads me to recall the old days before our postal services had developed, when one's best bet of getting something abroad was to entrust it to a traveller who would mail it once he reaches his destination, or else deliver it by hand.

At the time, friendship with airline crews was an asset of high premium. Today, thanks to the advances in technology and to the remarkable progress that we have realised in leaps and bounds as we ourselves lead into the twenty-first century, one's best bet of getting something abroad is to entrust it to a mail carrier who would mail it on else deliver it by hand.

It is a shame that the whole world people come for the anniversary celebration. I have been working in the whole world for several months before Mr. Take it in an unsealed container to the parcels office downtown, manifest the contents to the satisfaction of the customs, pay your dues plus export and sales taxes, seal the container in their presence, then have it stamped and signed by each one of them in turn. Then he added, to reassure the client of his magnanimity: "I shall not take you more than a day."

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## Russia mi

By Philippa Fletcher

Rever

When Russia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrei Kozyrev, went to Moscow, he didn't have to go very far.

At mid-June, 1997, Kozyrev was lined up with women every night, to play a curious variation on the theme of pass the parcel, in which they passed the envelope from one to the other, each pausing to hold it against the light and feel it before advancing his theory on its mysterious contents.

"It feels like cloth," suggested one. "Yes," added another. "It must be commercial samples." "Not at all," interjected a third. "This is the padding of a nightgown." "It feels like cloth to me," insisted the first who held his ground with refreshing tenacity. "Anyway, we shall find out for sure when we put it through the X-ray machine," said a fourth, cutting doubt with certainty.

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## Nobel laureates make appeal for world's children

By Raul Zamora  
Agence France-Presse

PARIS — Twenty Nobel peace laureates have taken up the fight against the growing "culture of violence" they say has engulfed a group not in a position to speak for itself — the world's children.

The solemn appeal, entitled "For the children of the world," was addressed last week to heads of state of all member countries of the U.N. General Assembly and signed by such notables as Mother Teresa, the dalai lama, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi and Yasser Arafat.

Others who have backed the appeal include Arun Gandhi, grandson of the great Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi who embodied the principle of non-violence.

The laureates demanded action to create a "culture of non-violence," specifically that the issue top the international agenda for the new millennium and that concrete measures be taken as of January 1, 2000, to promote non-violence on a world scale.

"Many children — too many children — live a 'culture of violence,'" the Nobel Peace Prize winners' statement said. Children in every country of the world are "silently suffering the effects and consequences of violence."

This violence, it said, "takes many different forms: between children on streets, at school, in family life and in the community."

There is physical violence, psychological violence, socio-economic violence, environmental violence and political violence.

"We wish to contribute to reduce their suffering," and allow children to discover "that violence is not inevitable," it said.

The statement was delivered at a press conference at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNESCO) by Mairead Maguire, the Northern Irish human rights activist and 1976 laureate who is honorary president of the appeal.

The three-point plea asked that "the first decade of the new millennium, the years 2000-2010, be declared the 'decade for a culture of non-violence'."

It also asked that "at the start of the decade the year 2000 be declared the 'year of education for non-violence'."

And thirdly, it urged that "non-violence be taught at

every level in our societies during this decade, to make the children of the world aware of the real, practical meaning and benefits of non-violence in their daily lives, in order to reduce the violence, and consequent suffering, perpetrated against them and humanity in general."

The laureates lamented that as the world enters the third millennium, it is transmitting to its children magnificent technology but "a sick planet, the globalisation of warfare ... and a confused and torn human family."

Children will need the wisdom that failed us to renounce what today has become suicidal violence, the statement said.

UNESCO General Director Federico Mayor gave the statement his full backing and offered UNESCO

premises to help, in line with a 1994 UNESCO initiative to transform what it calls the prevailing culture of war into a "culture of peace."

"Both peace and children are the two lights amidst darkness that give us hope," Mr. Mayor said in a statement calling children "our best heritage ... our most important wealth."

"We must all of us in our daily behaviour be examples of non-violence," he said.

Among the other laureates who signed the appeal were Mikhail Gorbachev, Shimon Perez, Elic Wiesel, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Betty Williams, Lech Walesa, Desmond Tutu, Oscar Arias Sanchez, Frederik de Klerk, Ramos Horta, Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, Joseph Rotblat and UNICEF.

## Prince Hassan returns home

(Continued from page 1)

As for the security of the Middle East, the Crown Prince noted that regional security should not only be based on "Israel, oil, and other components of (Western) security," but on the values of "soft security" based on a humanitarian agenda.

While dual containment (of Iraq and Iran) seems to be not working, new arrangements for the region's security should include all the countries of the Middle East including Iraq, Iran and Turkey, the Prince stressed to his hosts. During his visit to Hungary, the Crown Prince held talks with President Arpad

Goncz, Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs, Parliament Speaker Zoltan Gal and other officials.

The Crown Prince also addressed an opening session of the International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS).

The Prince shared with the 1,500 scholars from 70 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa his vision of a new world order based on human considerations and characterised by persistent dialogue between the different religions and cultures.

He also delivered the same message to a meeting in Geneva, earlier in the week, organised by the office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees.

Almost 80 per cent of the estimated 26 million world refugees come from the Muslim World, the Crown Prince noted.

A Zakat (alms) fund, the Prince said, would help end the plight of many refugees and provide for the needs of millions of poor people around the Muslim World.

Another theme that the Crown Prince addressed was islamophobia. Terrorism that some in the world would like to tie to Islam and Muslims is a phenomenon that is not exclusive to a certain religion, culture or ethnicity, the Crown Prince emphasised during his talks with different leaders.

## Israeli army chief in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

Mohammed Salamah Al Houwayan, visited Israel last month and met with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in Tel Aviv. There was no confirmation from the Jordanian side on this visit.

The reports said that army units from the two sides participated last month in a military training exercise in Baqoura to test "the evacuation capabilities of the two armies if

the March 19 accident (where seven Israeli schoolgirls were killed) was repeated.

Last year, Mr. Mordechai visited the Kingdom and met with His Majesty King Hussein and former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Jordanian-Israeli military cooperation comes amid worries from several Arab countries, especially Syria, Iraq and Egypt, about a Turkish-Israeli military pact that is seen to

threaten regional security.

The two countries signed several military agreements which allow their air forces to hold air exercises in each other's air space.

The two countries also agreed to hold military war games in the Mediterranean.

Dr. Majali repeatedly said that the Kingdom will not take part in any military cooperation scheme between Ankara and Tel Aviv.

## Russia minister takes on world's oldest profession

By Philippa Fletcher  
Reuters

MOSCOW — When Russia's Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov went looking for prostitutes in Moscow, he didn't have to go very far.

Until mid-June, two major streets in the heart of the city were lined with young women every night and just opposite the state duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, their numbers swelled into a small crowd.

"I was nearly dragged out of the car — it was a good thing the doors were closed," Mr. Kulikov told a news conference.

"All in all, there were about 500 of them, and there were a few groups who were guarded by militiamen from the left flank and from the right. There was clearly nothing spontaneous about that," he said.

The minister — who said he had been told about the prostitutes by a friend and had ordered a crackdown — is not the only senior Russian official to display a striking ignorance about what goes on at night in the middle of the capital.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov appeared to have been put on the spot when a television interviewer read him a letter from a viewer complaining that her teenage daughter had been wrongly accused by police of soliciting as she waited at a bus stop.

He followed up with a question: What did the mayor have to say to the viewer's suspicion that police were in league with the pimps and hassled innocent women and girls in case they were a threat to the illegal business under their protection?

"We have been working for a year-and-a-half on this problem," said Mr. Luzhkov, totally unfazed, "and are solving it."

That was several months ago, long before Mr. Kulikov made his evening tour and decided that it looked bad to allow the "night butterflies," as they are known here, to flutter freely on Moscow's main streets in full view of foreign guests.

"We cannot be shamed before the whole world when people come for the 850th anniversary celebrations," he said.

Moscow has a long history of using prostitutes to ensnare foreigners, as Russians learned during glasnost, when newly published archives showed the KGB had recruited hookers as agents during the 1950s' international festival of youth hosted by Moscow.

Two years ago, the then head of Russia's foreign intelligence service bemoaned the lack of female agents and said that, from 1996, there would be a special operational unit made up of women.

He did not say what the unit would do and since then there has been no word



A suspected Russian prostitute is locked up in a police cell after she was detained during a night raid in central Moscow. Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, horrified by the sight of hundreds of women lining the streets near parliament, has proposed moving the unofficial red light district elsewhere (Reuters photo)

on whether it was set up or its role.

And, while in the Soviet Union prostitution was limited and controlled, economic hardships and organised crime have brought a boom in the world's oldest profession, making it hard to spot who might be working for the state and who for a criminal gang or to support impoverished relatives.

Foreigners are by no means the only clients, although they are lured by advertisements in English-language dailies offering "massages" or "introductions" and the slogan "do it tonight" touted by the night flight club, a popular businessmen's haunt.

Mr. Kulikov did not object to the business per se, but clearly felt it was better for tourists not to have to weave through the crowds of women on the streets near parliament.

"People must enjoy themselves, but in the evening there will be that category of 'entrepreneurs' there," he said, proposing that the whole business be moved to

Kotelnicheskaya embankment on the banks of the Moskva River.

But, judging by the reaction from residents on the embankment, a new red light district would not be welcome.

"I'd grab Kulikov in a certain place and string him up from there," said Lyubov, a pensioner in a blue overall and headscarf, looking at the Soviet star atop a nearby vast Stalin-era skyscraper, built for the cream of Soviet society.

People here are the type who feel that prostitution is just another of the ills brought upon them by Communism's collapse. One man had even taught his dog to bark at the word "democrats".

Whether or not Mr. Kulikov is cowed by such opposition, there are no signs of any new arrivals, although the numbers of women in the centre have dwindled and their police escorts appear to have returned to the other side of the barricades.

Russia still lacks law against prostitution

It is all part of a campaign to clean up the streets. In line with drives to smarten up buildings and bridges with fresh coats of paint and chase away tramps and people from southern parts of Russia and other former Soviet republics.

But with no law against prostitution in Russia's new criminal code, the operation looks strikingly like a Soviet-era economic plan, with numbers, not results, the real aim.

One central police station was boozing a week ago as officers brought in regular hordes of heavily-made-up young women in buses and patrol cars.

Minutes later, they had paid fines for such things as disturbing the peace, or not having the right documents, and were heading back to the streets, coyly hiding their faces and in some cases protected from prying journalists by policemen.

Sergei Semyonich, deputy head of police head-

quarters in the central district, said prostitution had nothing to do with the operation, which also involved busloads of crack interior ministry troops equipped with flak jackets and guns.

"We are arresting citizens for not having documents, for any number of violations of the criminal and administrative codes," he insisted, without explaining why only women were brought in.

"We may be doing it because we have guests here, we may not," he added cryptically, referring to a conference of mayors from the major world cities held in Moscow this month.

The police insisted that the fines were for legitimate violations but one officer, who did not want to be named but who was angry at being distracted from crime-fighting, said the police protection noted by Mr. Kulikov was still going on.

"How can we fight prostitution like this?" he said. "We just end up breaking the law ourselves."

## Truce committee calls for restraint in south Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

eye, in villages in south Lebanon and confirmed that at least two rockets fired by Lebanese guerrillas slammed into northern Israel.

The panel, however, did not explicitly accuse either of the sides of violating the terms of the April 26, 1996 ceasefire accord which bans combatants from targeting civilians or launching attacks from civilian areas.

The agreement put an end to Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" offensive against Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon which left 175 people, mostly civilians, dead.

The statement said the Lebanese and Israeli del-

egations to the committee — made up of France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States — exchanged accusations of truce violations.

The committee convened at the headquarters of the U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in this Israeli-Lebanese border town to hear two truce violation complaints by Lebanon and another two protests by Israel.

Lebanon had filed complaints over the wounding of seven Lebanese civilians in Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon Sunday and the injury of a civilian in an Israeli attack Wednesday.

The Israeli attacks of

Sunday came in response to the killing of an Israeli army officer in a Hizbollah ambush inside the Israeli-occupied border zone of South Lebanon.

Israel lodged complaints after unidentified guerrillas in southern Lebanon fired at least seven Katyusha rockets into northern Israel Sunday and concerning shelling of its northern territory Thursday. The attacks did not cause injuries or damage.

Hizbollah spearheads an armed campaign to drive Israeli troops out of the buffer zone set up by Israel in 1985 to prevent attacks by anti-Israeli guerrillas on its northern border.

## Iraq-Kuwait dispute dominates Arab Games

(Continued from page 1)

Arab relations — even in sports.

Iraq was left out of the seventh Arab Games in Syria in 1992, but was invited this time amid some rapprochement between Baghdad and other Arab capitals.

Lebanon first sought to cool tension by trying to avoid the two countries' having to compete face to face.

But Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahd Al Sabah, head of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, has said no Kuwaiti athlete will take part in any sport in which any Iraqi takes part at all.

He said that if Iraq attends the games, the emirate's 277-member delegation will march in the opening ceremony holding pictures of Kuwaitis reported missing in the Gulf war.

"We will not accept to meet them as long as we have one prisoner" in Iraq, said Sheikh Ahmad, whose father was shot and killed by Iraqis during the invasion.

Kuwait has been campaigning for information about 600 Kuwaitis and others who have been missing since the invasion. Kuwait insists it has evidence they are jailed in Iraq, but Baghdad denies that.

## Muslim Brotherhood will boycott elections

(Continued from page 1)

shown clear intention to participate in the elections at the beginning of this year and started preparing its ticket in June, the Council of Thirty's decision to boycott the elections "will be abided by the front," the Muslim Brotherhood leader said, adding that, however, "it is likely that some members of the front will run independently."

The Muslim Brotherhood has issued several statements protesting against the introduction of the one-person, one-vote system, saying that it is aimed at reducing the Islamists' representation in Parliament.

All IAF members share the Muslim Brotherhood's aversion to the 1993 election law, substantially left unchanged by recent amendments introduced in May. Both the IAF and the Muslim Brotherhood have also expressed the worry that the government might forge the elections.

However, the party

within the IAF in favour of participating in the next parliamentary elections bases its position on the fact that prognostics agree that the IAF is very likely to improve its 1993 elections performance.

"If it manages the election campaign properly, the IAF could win 25 to 30 seats," a political analyst said.

Other observers expect that the decision could provoke an internal schism within the IAF ranks between those abiding by the council's decision and those determined to participate in the elections.

The prospect that IAF Secretary General Ismael Farhan will resign should the Muslim Brotherhood vote in favour of the boycott has been floating in political circles for the past two weeks, and most analysts seem to await it.

Excluding the possibility of a schism, an observer close to the Muslim Brotherhood's high cadres said "the IAF would be nothing

without the backing of the Brotherhood, and people will not simply show up at the polls, if the Brotherhood decides to boycott (the elections)."

"Dr. Farhan will definitely resign, if the Council of Thirty decides against participating (in the elections)," the source added.

Observers also expect that the decision taken today by the Islamists will lead to a similar decision by the other 10 opposition parties joining the IAF into the Higher Committee for the coordination among the opposition parties.

Such parties, including the leftists and the Ba'athists, have declared in a statement earlier that they were exploring the possibility of boycotting the elections "in preliminary fear that the government will interfere in the electoral process and forge the results in favour of its candidates."











## Kipketer equals oldest world track record

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Danish running sensation Wilson Kipketer equalled Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old 800m world record in the DN Games here on Monday.

Kipketer, who twice smashed the world indoor record earlier this year at the World Indoor Championships in Paris, looked to have failed by only one hundredth of a second when his initial time was announced at 1min 41.74secs but minutes later it was corrected to 1:41.73 and the world record was his as well.

"I could hardly run in the last 50 yards. I just pushed myself but it felt as if I was not moving," said an exhausted but lighted Kipketer afterwards.

"After my time tonight I am a bit relieved. Now people will stop asking me about the world record. Up to now, this is the best moment in my life," he added.

Until tonight, the 26-year-old former Kenyan who moved to Denmark in 1990, was only the third fastest ever 800 meter runner, trailing Coe and Brazil's Joaquim Cruz.

But as Kipketer's performance in Paris showed, it is only a matter of time before the great Dane will hold the 800 metre record on his own.

Kipketer is in a class of his own, as he showed on Friday, and the World Championships in Athens in three weeks where he defends his title would be the perfect showcase to

show he is the greatest 800 metre runner of all time.

Moses Kiptanui's attempt to beat his own 3,000 metre steeplechase world record melted in the hot Swedish evening sun.

The 26-year-old Kenyan, who admitted before the race that he was going to try and beat the record he set in Zurich two years ago, was on a record pace after 1,000 metres.

But after moving in front and stretching his lead to 30 yards over fellow Kenyan Wilson Kipketer, he was unable to sustain the pace in the sweltering Stockholm Stadium.

In the end he finished in 8.01.80, more than two seconds outside the record, in a race that was a Kenyan festival — the east Africans filling the first five spots.

"I knew it would not be easy. It is not simple," said the triple world champion.

In the 5,000 metres Daniel Komen's world record bid ended in disaster. Not only did the Kenyan not only come close to Haile Gebrselassie's record, he failed to finish in the first three.

Instead it was fellow Kenyan Tom Nyariki who won in 12:55.95, more than 10 seconds slower than Gebrselassie's 12:44.39, set in Zurich two years ago.

At Bolder of Trinidad joined the "diamond club" when he set a new 100m stadium record of 9.95. It earned the Olympic bronze medalist a \$10,000 one carat diamond reward from the race organisers.

After three false starts

Boldon made up from a slow start to power through to beat home in front of Americans Maurice Greene and Dennis Mitchell.

An hour later Boldon made it a double when he won the 200 metres in 19.82 ahead of Greene, who ran a personal best 19.86.

In the men's 400 metres hurdles it was an emotional farewell for Sweden's Sven Nylander. Before the race the 35-year-old announced his retirement, saying jokingly that only if he broke the world record would he keep on competing.

There was little chance of that with American Bryan Bronson, the fastest man over the distance this year, showing why he is firm favourite to win at the World Championships in Athens in three weeks time.

The 24-year-old Texan took the lead at the second hurdle and then pulled away to finish a lonely first in 48.06, nearly a second ahead of team-mate Rohan Robinson.

But it was Nylander, who finished sixth nearly two seconds back, who took the lap of honour as the 25,000 strong crowd rose to pay their respects to the man who became affectionately known as the 'fourth man' after finishing fourth in three Olympics.

Slovakia's Igor Kovac headed Britain's Tony Jarrett to win the 110 metres hurdles in 13.13 to join Boldon in the "diamond club".

Jarrett and American Jack Pierce, bronze medalist in



Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco receives flowers after winning the men's 1500 metres in Stockholm. Guerrouj won the event with a time of three minutes 29.30 seconds (Reuters photo)



Denmark's Kenyan-born runner Wilson Kipketer crosses the line after equalling Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old 800 metres world record (Reuters photo)

the 92 Olympics, both clocked 13.26 but the judges gave Jarrett the nod for second.

America's new sprint queen Marion Jones added the 200m title to the 100m title she won in Oslo last Friday.

The 21-year-old clocked 22.16 to beat Australia's Cathy Freeman.

It was also Jones fastest 200 metres, well inside the 22.58 she timed five years ago.

Japanese star when the Yankees and A's meet later this month and in August.

"I'm excited about seeing him," McGwire said. "I have heard a lot about him. When they come to Oakland at the end of August, I will be seeing one of the best in baseball at the most important time of the year."

Iraha will have to wait until next year to try and follow in the footsteps of Hideo Nomo, the Los Angeles hurler who is the only Japanese player to reach the Major League All-Star game.

Internationals here include Venezuela's Andres Galarraga, Pedro Martinez and Moises Alou of the Dominican Republic, Panama's Mariano Rivera, Canada's Jason Dickson and Larry Walker plus Puerto Rico's Bernie Williams, Javier Lopez, Joey Cora, Jose Rosado, Ivan Rodriguez plus Roberto and Sandy Alomar.

Martinez poked fun at his club, the Montreal Expos, who have traded away top talent in recent years to keep salary expenses down.

As he watched All-Star players from reigning NL champion Atlanta pose for a picture, he tried to join and said, "I'm going to be a Brave-O later on anyway." He likely will become to expensive for the Expos when offers come.

Former Cleveland star Albert Belle skipped Monday's pre-game workout and was replaced in

the starting lineup by New York Yankee outfielder Paul O'Neill, himself a replacement for injured Cleveland star David Justice.

Belle figures to be a target for trouble from fans here after leaving the hometown Indians for a \$55 million offer from the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland's closest rival in the American League Central Division.

When Belle returned here with Chicago in June, Indians slugger Tino Martinez beat Canada's Walker in the homer contest. Walker, a Colorado Rockies outfielder, smashed nine homers in each of the first two rounds but hit only one in the final. Martinez had three.

The longest homers of the competition were by Walker, 479 and 462 feet, in the opening round.

"I can't explain it. I never hit homers in batting practice," Martinez said. "I had a home run at the start of the finals and that got me going."

"I got into a groove out there and was fortunate Larry couldn't

get going. He was awesome, incredible. He was tired with all the swings he had in the second round."

## Samaranch snub angers deaf sportsmen

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Deaf sports officials hit out at International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch on Tuesday, claiming he had reneged on an offer to officially open the World Deaf Games.

The 18th World Games for the Deaf begin in Copenhagen on Sunday and organisers had been expecting the Spaniard to conduct the opening.

"On Monday we received a negative response saying that it would be impossible for Mr. Samaranch to be in Denmark, even though we received a fax from the IOC on April 4 confirming his participation," Deaf Games Press Officer Lone

Trolberg told AFP.

The CISS, which organises sports events for the deaf, is the oldest sporting federation for the handicapped and was founded in 1924, when the first deaf games were held. The organisation has come under the IOC umbrella since 1995.

Around 2,500 athletes from 60 nations are scheduled to participate in 15 different sports from Sunday through to July 26.

The opening ceremony will feature a musical concert, featuring an 85 piece orchestra and choir and a performance by British singer Elaine Page.

## Nuggets renounce 6 players including Marciulionis

DENVER (R) — The Denver Nuggets, trying to clear money under the salary cap to sign their three first-round picks, renounced the rights to six players Monday including Lithuanian guard Sarunas Marciulionis.

The Nuggets also renounced the rights to Vincent Askew, Jerome Allen, Jimmy King, Keith Jennings and Kenny Smith. The move cleared up at least \$4.8 million in cap room. Marciulionis earned \$2.5 million and Askew made \$2 million last season.

Denver has to sign centre Tony Battie, forward Danny Fortson and guard Bobby Jackson. The Nuggets selected Battie with the third overall pick, while Fortson, the 10th pick, was part of a four-player trade with Milwaukee that sent centre Ervin Johnson to the Bucks. Jackson, selected by Seattle at 23, was acquired in a deal that sent second-round pick James Cotton to the Supersonics.

Marciulionis, a 33-year-old veteran of eight seasons in the NBA and a three-time Olympian, appeared in just 17 games due to knee injuries last season, averaging just 6.8 points. He shot 37.6 per cent from the field and 36.7 per cent from three-point range.

Allen, acquired from Indiana late in the season, averaged 3.0 points and 1.3 rebounds in 76 games.

Askew, who was sent from Indiana to the New Jersey Nets to Denver, averaged 5.6 points and 2.3 rebounds in 43 games.

Smith, who started the season with the Detroit Pistons before ending up with the Nuggets, averaged 6.3 points and 2.4 assists in 48 games.

King appeared in just two games last season while Jennings did not play for Denver.

## Costa crashes out in Swiss Open

GSTAAD (AFP) — Defending champion and fifth seed Albert Costa crashed out in his first match at the \$575,000 Swiss Open here Tuesday.

American Richey Reneberg won 6-2, 1-6, 6-4. Costa, one of a handful of high-profile Spanish clay courters who skipped the grass season in Britain, appeared rusty and sluggish against the World No. 34 Reneberg. He sat out Wimbledon due to back problems.

"I wasn't sharp after being away from tennis for a month," said the Spaniard, 14th on the ATP Tour rankings. "But it was not my back that was bothering me. It was tough for me to come back once I got behind."

Costa's loss on the high-altitude clay courts at the picturesque Swiss resort gives Spain two losses in as many days after starting the tournament with nine players — and five seeds — in the field.

Second seed Alex Corretja stopped the rot for Spain with his 6-3, 7-5 win over Czech Jiri Novak. The Italian Open champion broke for 6-5 and drove an untouchable backhand down the line in the next game to end the contest on a winning note.

The first tour-level outing for Swiss Davis cup player Ivo Heuberger ended with a 6-3, 6-4 defeat by Spain's Juan Alberto Viloca.

In other matches, top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov is up against Swiss Marc Rosset, upset with the home press over a report suggesting he should retire due to poor recent results.

Kafelnikov, the 1995 Gstaad champion who had a hand injury in January, has won 17 out of 22 matches, including wins in 12 of his last 14 matches.

The Russian has had his best results on grass this season, winning his first title in eight months at Halle, Germany, before Wimbledon, where he lost in the fourth round to German Nicolas Pietrangeli.

No. 3 seed and three-time tournament champion Sergi Bruguera will take on Australian wild card Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon holder.

Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline will play compatriot Fabrice Santoro two days after the All England Club. The winner will face Corretja.

## GOREN BRIDGE

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ J 10 5, ♥ J 8 3, ♦ A 6 5 4, ♣ K 7 3

EAST: ♠ A 8 7 3 2, ♥ Q 7 6, ♦ Q 8 7, ♣ A 9

WEST: ♠ K Q 9, ♥ A 10 8 7, ♦ Q 10 8 7, ♣ A 10 8 5 4

SOUTH: ♠ A 8 4, ♥ A K Q 10 5, ♦ Q 9 2, ♣ A Q 8 2

The bidding: SOUTH 1♠, 2♠, 3♠, 4♠, 5♠, 6♠, 7♠, 8♠, 9♠, 10♠, 11♠, 12♠, 13♠, 14♠, 15♠, 16♠, 17♠, 18♠, 19♠, 20♠, 21♠, 22♠, 23♠, 24♠, 25♠, 26♠, 27♠, 28♠, 29♠, 30♠, 31♠, 32♠, 33♠, 34♠, 35♠, 36♠, 37♠, 38♠, 39♠, 40♠, 41♠, 42♠, 43♠, 44♠, 45♠, 46♠, 47♠, 48♠, 49♠, 50♠, 51♠, 52♠, 53♠, 54♠, 55♠, 56♠, 57♠, 58♠, 59♠, 60♠, 61♠, 62♠, 63♠, 64♠, 65♠, 66♠, 67♠, 68♠, 69♠, 70♠, 71♠, 72♠, 73♠, 74♠, 75♠, 76♠, 77♠, 78♠, 79♠, 80♠, 81♠, 82♠, 83♠, 84♠, 85♠, 86♠, 87♠, 88♠, 89♠, 90♠, 91♠, 92♠, 93♠, 94♠, 95♠, 96♠, 97♠, 98♠, 99♠, 100♠.

Opening lead: King of ♠.

The normal way to plan a campaign is for declarer to see which of the closed hand's losers can be ruffed in dummy. However, when dummy holds high trumps, it is often wise to look at the holding from the opposite point of view.

After North's single raise in hearts, South's bid of three clubs asked partner to evaluate the club holding only for game purposes. With a key honor in the trial suit and a maximum raise, North had no hesitation in bidding game despite only three-card heart support.

West led the king of spades, and declarer was faced with three sure losers — two to spades and one in diamonds. The only problem was the fourth club. The two obvious ways to avoid a loser in that suit was to find a 3-3 split, or the hand with long hearts holding four clubs or less. In the latter event, South could draw two rounds of hearts, then cash the top clubs. The defender with the remaining trump would have to follow to four rounds of clubs while the last gets ruffed on the table. A glance at the diagram will suffice to reveal that either line is doomed to failure.

Thanks to the high trumps on the table, declarer found an alternative line that needed no more than a 2-2 trump overturn by the queen of spades and another diamond ruff to hand and ducked a diamond. East won and returned a trump, taken in the closed hand with the ace. A diamond to the ace was followed by diamond ruff high, and the use of trumps overturned by the jack provided the entry for another diamond ruff with declarer's last trump.

All that remained was to cross to the king of clubs and extract the last long with dummy's ace of hearts. The ace and queen of clubs scored declarer's ninth and tenth tricks.

## Baseball's best feature record global group

CLEVELAND (AFP) — Baseball's global growth has produced a record 13 international players here at Major League baseball's 68th All-Star game, comprising nearly 25 per cent of the talent showcased here.

American League starters Roberto Alomar and Ivan Rodriguez pace seven Puerto Rican stars among the 56 participants Tuesday. The National League has won three in a row to lead the rivalry 40-26 with one drawn.

Cal Ripken's 2,401 consecutive games played are a global record but he fear even his longevity will not be enough for him to see a global ban for baseball supremacy.

"I would like to see more done with the possibilities of international baseball," he said. "Maybe not in my playing career, but one day we might have a true 'World' Series, maybe with professionals in the Olympics, with teams from every nation. That would be exciting."

The arrival of Hideki Iruha has generated some excitement as well. The Japanese pitcher makes his Major League debut on Thursday for the World Series champion New York Yankees when they host Detroit.

Oakland's Mark McGwire, the home run leader with 31 so far this year, cannot wait to test his slugging skills in a showdown against the

Japanese star when the Yankees and A's meet later this month and in August.

"I'm excited about seeing him," McGwire said. "I have heard a lot about him. When they come to Oakland at the end of August, I will be seeing one of the best in baseball at the most important time of the year."

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Former Cleveland star Albert Belle skipped Monday's pre-game workout and was replaced in

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "1"

Jim Carrey ... in

LIAR LIAR

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Leslie Nielsen ... in

DRACULA DEAD & LOVING IT

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15

GONE WITH THE WIND

Show: 8:30 p.m. only

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Toni Cruise ... in

JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"

Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt ... in

DEVIL'S OWN

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan ... in

SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

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## Ridiculed Tyson faces judgement day

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Mike Tyson has become a scorned object of ridicule across the United States even as a panel here prepares to meet and decide his boxing future.

The five-member Nevada State Athletic Commission Disciplinary Board meets here Wednesday to determine what punishment to give Tyson for biting the ears of Evander Holyfield in their heavyweight title fight 10 days ago.

Tyson apologised and hinted at some type of therapy or counselling to dim the raging fury dwelling within him, an anger that erupted in the ring against Holyfield.

"The thing I liked about the apology was that he said he needed some psychological and psychiatric treatment," Commission Chairman Elias Ghanem said. "As a doctor I think that is significant."

But that will not keep Tyson from punishment. The World Boxing Association decided Monday to drop him from its rankings because he is under suspension by Nevada officials, whose decision looms.

"The apology doesn't change what happened in the ring," Ghanem said.

The incident has made Tyson a running joke with television comedians. At a celebrity softball game Monday in Cleveland, where Tyson keeps his main home, a mock ear-biting scene and faux apology was played out for humour.

The Hollywood wax museum has removed Tyson's figure from the sports section and placed it in the "monsters" area adjacent to cinematic cannibal Hannibal Lector.

A music-video cable television channel had a "bite countdown" of songs Monday that included "another one bites the dust" by Queen, "Maneater" by Hall and Oates and "Love Bites" by Def Leppard.

The bite has been used by activists from causes as diverse as economic reform and racism to show Tyson as a product of problems beyond his control.

The commission plans to



Mike Tyson

exert control. What Tyson does after that will decide the course of his life in and out of the ring.

"The kid needs help," said trainer Angelo Dundee, who has guided Sugar Ray Leonard and Muhammad Ali among others. "He needs psychological help. I don't know where it's going to come from. But he needs it."

Many in boxing, including Tyson's first co-manager, Bill Cayton, suggest a split from promoter Don King and long-time pals Rory Holtoway and John Horne as a strong first step in changing the direction of Tyson's life.

"Tyson's problems are 99 per cent Don King," Cayton said. "Mike had a chance to regain his self-esteem. Now he has no self-esteem."

All his frustrations came to a head that night.

"There are too many guys around him," agreed Dundee. Tyson has not been the same fighter since spending three years in prison for rape, but he had intimidated lacklustre foes until losing his World Boxing Association title to Holyfield last November.

"Complete frustration took hold," Dundee said. "He didn't want to get

knocked out. He didn't want to get shown up worse than he was in the first fight."

Now all that remains is the length of Tyson's banishment, which could range anywhere from a year to life.

"Anything over 12 months would be disastrous," trainer Emanuel Steward said. "His style of fighting is a youth style, not laid back like a Sugar Ray or Ali."

At 31, any lengthy ban would dim Tyson's chances to reclaim his title. And whatever penalty he faces will likely be accompanied by mandatory mental examinations.

For more important to Tyson in the long run is trying to reclaim his dignity and honour. That fight will be with his past and his own dark side.

It could last a lifetime with no hope of a knockout to erase the memory of the bites or a rape conviction. There would be no prize money but what is at stake is something all his millions could not purchase — respect.

And that battle would be lost in a single moment of anger.

Facing that challenge might make Holyfield seem a tame foe by comparison.

## Tour de France

## Zabel powers into contention in 3rd stage

PLUMELEC, France (AFP) — Erik Zabel of Germany moved into contention in the Tour de France when he powered through to win the 217km third stage from Vire to here on Tuesday.

Mario Cipollini of Italy, who won sprint finishes in the previous two stages, kept the leader's yellow jersey but lost the points green jersey to the German, who was helped home by defending champion Bjarne Riis of Denmark who finished third.

Zabel, last year's points winner and a winner of two stages each of the last two years, surged past Frank Vandenbroucke of Belgium in the last 30 metres with Riis, Laurent Jalabert of France and Italy's Davide Rebellin following him home.

His win moved him up from eighth to second place, 25sec behind the Italian, pushing Britain's Chris Boardman down to third, ahead of Jan Ullrich, another German teammate of Riis.

Riis, who had blasted his team for failing to help him when he was held up by a mass pileup in Sunday's stage, was in a better mood today.

"I'm feeling fine. I'm confident," he said.

Former world hour record-holder Tony Rominger's seventh and last Tour ended when he broke his right collarbone in a multiple pileup 5km from the end of the stage.

The 37-year-old Swiss rider, three-times a tour of Spain winner, had been brought in by Cofidis to replace former world champion Lance Armstrong when the America went down with cancer.

"It's difficult to avoid those types of falls as everyone's trying to get to



Italy's yellow jersey holder Mario Cipollini (C) leads the pack as the riders leave Vire for the 224km third stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Vire and Plumelec (Reuters photo)

the front," Cipollini said.

Most of the stage had seen the pack chasing down a breakaway group of four riders, which ended when

Francis Simon of France broke clear 19km from the finish only to be caught

5km short of his goal. The 28-year-old Simon,

normally to be found helping out teammates Boardman or France's Frederic Moncassin, had taken part in the earlier four-man

breakaway.

Orlando Rodrigues of Portugal, Danny Nelissen of the Netherlands, Gianluca Bortolami of Italy and Simon pulled clear after 84km and built up a 3min 10sec gap.

The lead would have given Nelissen the leader's Yellow Jersey and Cipollini ordered his Saeco team to chase them down.

All four had something to prove but with 30km to go the pack had reduced the gap to 90 seconds.

That was still enough to give Nelissen, who had started the day in 19th position — one minute behind Cipollini — the Yellow Jersey but breakaway riders usually need a lead of one minute for every 10km left to hope to finish ahead of the chasing pack.

The four men refused to surrender, however, and huddled down to the job of hanging onto the slender lead.

Then, 19km from the finish, Simon sprinted clear. The other three riders were soon reeled in by the peloton and Simon's brave attack was ruthlessly chased down.

The 26-year-old Nelissen is making his second stab at professional cycling. He returned to the non-paid ranks in 1995 to win the World Amateur Championship in Colombia and returned to the pro ranks last year.

Mozambique-born Rodrigues, a 28-year-old rider in his second tour, lost the 13th stage last year by two seconds to Denmark's Rolf Sorensen.

The 29-year-old Bortolami has been plagued by bad luck for the last three years, suffering from glandular fever, a broken bone in his elbow and a broken pelvis.

## Lewis supports Stockholm 2004 Olympic bid

STOCKHOLM (R) — Nine times Olympic champion Carl Lewis has joined a group of elite athletes pledging public support for the Stockholm 2004 Olympic bid.

The athletes, headed by former world triple jump record holder Willie Banks and former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, believe Stockholm would provide the best facilities and environment for the 2004 Games.

Stockholm, Rome, Athens, Cape Town and Buenos Aires are on the final shortlist of cities bidding to host the games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will choose the winning city in Lausanne on September 5.

Lewis, who anchored the Santa Monica Track Club quartet to victory in Monday evening's Stockholm Grand Prix, told a news conference on Tuesday he had visited each of the bidding cities.

"I am supporting this bid because I know this community," Lewis said. "I knew this community before the Olympics was an issue."

His sentiments were endorsed by banks, the inspiration behind the initiative.

Banks said he had come up with the idea to support Stockholm after it had been the shortest and had then talked to a number of other athletes, including Lewis.

"We want the world to know that the best city for the athletes will be Stockholm," Banks said.

Santa Monica Manager Joe Douglas said Lewis



Nine times Olympic champion Carl Lewis addresses a press conference where he pledges public support for the Stockholm 2004 Olympic bid (Reuters photo)

was not being paid to endorse the bid and added the bid organisers had not paid the club's travelling costs.

A statement from the athletes said a committee, called the International Athletes' Council, had been formed to support the bid, comprising 53 athletes from around the world in 22 Olympic disciplines.

"We, the athletes of the council, have compared the perfect weather in Stockholm, the clean air and water and believe these fac-

tors all support the victory for Stockholm 2004," the statement said.

The council also includes Haile Gebrselassie, who set a world 10,000 metres record in Oslo on Friday, and Wilson Kipketer, who equalled the world 800 record here on Monday.

Kipketer told the crowd in the Olympic stadium after the race that he did not know if he would run here next year.

But he added: "I plan to be here in the year 2004 at the Olympics."

## Waddle takes over at Burnley

LONDON (AFP) — Former England winger Chris Waddle started his managerial career on Tuesday when he signed a contract with Second Division club Burnley.

Waddle, who succeeds Adrian Heath, has agreed a three-year deal at Turf Moor as a player-manager. Waddle's assistant will be former Watford Manager Glenn Roeder, who was a teammate of his at Newcastle.

Waddle, who had long stints with Newcastle, Spurs, French club Marseille and Sheffield Wednesday, said he had followed his instincts in joining Burnley.

"It wasn't a hard decision by any means," he said. "I'm a believer in following your feelings and it just feels right."

"I've always been impressed with Burnley as a club, the way they have brought through young players and consistently tapped into such vast support."

Waddle intends to play on as well as manage a team he considers to have "immense potential".

He arrives two weeks after Heath's shock departure to become No.2 to Howard Kendall at Everton.

Waddle, who won 62 England caps, was released by Sheffield Wednesday last summer and had a brief spell with Falkirk last September before playing for Bradford and Sunderland late in the season.

It is more than 20 years since Burnley last played in the highest echelons of English football. The club was last in the old first division from 1973-76.

Burnley were league champions in 1959-60 and played in the European Cup the following year.

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## Babiche

Babiche announces that the employment of Ayyoub Mohammed Mahmoud Tashtah at Babiche has been terminated and he is no longer in the employ of Babiche at Shmeisani or Abdoun. Babiche also declares that it is not responsible for his actions or any contacts or arrangements with others in the name of Babiche or in the name of Fares Taddros & Partner Company or in the name of Lana Nicola Sabanagh Company, and none of the above named companies shall be held responsible legally or administratively after the publication of this announcement.

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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF & WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST IS RECRUITING AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN AMMAN:

Chief, Social Services Division, GRADE 20. (VN#HQ (A) 18/97) FIXED TERM APPOINTMENT.

(Monthly take home pay ranges from JD1031 to JD1587 plus dependency allowance; plus monthly provident fund ranging from JD215 to JD332 payable at the end of service; compulsory medical insurance).

DUTIES: The incumbent of this post is the Agency's senior social development professional, reporting directly to the Director of Relief and Social Services, managing a team of three social development experts at Headquarters and technically responsible for development social welfare programmes and projects implemented by field staff in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza. The social services programme includes community development and institution building; poverty alleviation; women in development; community-based rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities; and family casework. The Chief, Social Services Division is responsible for input into policy formulation; situation analyses and needs assessments; appropriate strategies and specific objectives; technical guidelines for policy implementation; training of social workers and programme managers in the five field offices; indicators for programme monitoring; and evaluation of programme impact and achievement. S/he coordinates with other UNRWA programmes and inter-governmental and non-governmental partners in joint social development ventures, and represents the Agency at relevant United Nations and other professional conferences. Administratively, s/he is responsible for the Office budget, and advises on staffing, logistical and other resource needs.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED: University degree in social welfare or related field, with special emphasis on the application of social work insights and methodologies to developmental programmes, with at least ten years experience in applying that knowledge including: 1) Practical experience in planning, implementation and evaluation in one or more of the following sectors: community development and institution building; poverty alleviation, rehabilitation and integration of the disabled, developmental women's programmes; and in training local counterparts to run such programmes. 2) At least five years in a senior supervisory capacity in a large international, governmental or non-governmental organisation promoting developmental social services. Excellent command of written and spoken English and Arabic and first-rate communication skills.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Thorough knowledge of the Near East environment and cultures; post-graduate degree or diploma directly relevant to one or more aspects of the social services listed above; computer literacy. Will be required to travel extensively in the Agency's area of operations in the Near East. Candidates are requested to submit a detailed UNRWA Personal History form and recent photograph not later than 24 July 1997 to: UNRWA Headquarters Amman, Attention: Personnel Officer, by Fax No. 826177 or by hand.

Full consideration will be given to disabled candidates whose disability does not mitigate the effective performance of the duties of the job. Normally many applications are received. Only those applicants in whom the Agency has a further interest will be contacted.





NATO heads of government and states share a laugh, as NATO General Secretary Javier Solana (centre) is late getting in position for a family picture, Tuesday. From left-back row: Canadian Premier J. Chretien, Danish Prime Minister P. N. Rasmussen, German Chancellor H. Kohl, Greek Prime Minister C. Simitis, Iceland PM D. Oddsson, Italian PM R. Prodi, and from left-front row: Belgian PM J. L. Dehaene, Turkish President S. Demirel, U.S. President B. Clinton and Spanish head of government J. M. Aznar (See story on page 1) (AFP photo)

## NATO launches historic expansion with invitation of 3 most favourites

MADRID (R) — A NATO summit invited Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance on Tuesday and gave clear commitments to Romania, Slovenia and the Baltic states they would be seriously considered in future.

"Today the heads of state and government have agreed to invite the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin accession talks with NATO," NATO Secretary General Javier Solana told the assembled alliance leaders and the news media.

NATO's 16 leaders agreed the biggest expansion in the alliance's 45-year history after France, which led a bloc of seven states urging a wider enlargement, won assurances the door would be left open and the situation reviewed in 1999.

Announcing the decision, which breaches Europe's cold war division, Mr. Solana said the allies' goal was to admit formally the new members in April 1999 on the occasion of the alliance's 50th anniversary.

President Bill Clinton told reporters the invitation marked a "giant stride" towards a new Europe that was undivided, democratic and at peace.

Mr. Solana, reading a text which had been subject of intense day-long wrangling, mentioned Slovenia and Romania as prime candidates for the next round of expansion — a concession

by the United States which wanted a vaguer commitment.

Braving Moscow's wrath, the official declaration also gave favourable mention to the Baltic states as "aspiring members" without specifically naming the former Soviet republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

"We recognize the progress achieved towards greater stability and cooperation by the states in the Baltic region who are also aspiring members," the declaration said.

Mr. Solana, stressing NATO remained "open to new members" and expected to extend further invitations in coming years, said any working European democracy would be considered for membership.

Russia has warned that it would consider NATO membership by the Baltic republics, which have substantial Russian minorities, as a threat to its own security.

It condemned the enlargement announced on Tuesday by its former cold war foe as "the biggest mistake in Europe since the end of World War II."

Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Moscow had not changed its position despite signing a new cooperation accord with NATO last May by which it grudgingly accepted it was powerless to stop the process.

"Regarding the question of NATO expansion, I can

only say that we confirm our stand," Mr. Primakov told reporters in Moscow.

But Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski was delighted.

"After this decision, Europe will be more secure and it's a good decision for Poland," he told Reuters, after waiting all afternoon in a hotel across town for the phone call from Mr. Solana.

At one of the most contentious NATO summits for years, France and Italy pushed strongly for Romania and Slovenia to also be invited, arguing that their inclusion would inject stability into some of Europe's most turbulent zones.

But Mr. Clinton, keenly aware he has to have expansion ratified by a sceptical Republican-led U.S. Congress, said only the three leading candidates were currently ready to meet all the responsibilities of membership.

"They have met the highest standards of democratic and market reform. They have pursued those reforms long enough to give us confidence they are irreversible, just as our offer of NATO membership is irreversible," Mr. Clinton told fellow leaders.

The U.S. administration is hatching itself for tough questions over how much expansion — the centrepiece of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy — will cost and about the wisdom of extend-

ing America's nuclear defence shield to cover three more European states.

While key aides frantically worked on the "open door" language, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Chirac engaged in animated, finger-wagging exchanges while other heads of state and government milled aimlessly around the conference centre.

Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi also expressed strong support for Slovenia, and Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis made a strong plea for Bulgaria.

Mr. Clinton was backed by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and four other leaders.

The debate gave European allies a chance to vent their resentment over what they see as American heavy-handedness not only in its NATO dealings but in other trans-Atlantic matters.

Mr. Chirac seized the opportunity on Tuesday to warn Mr. Clinton that NATO would not survive if the balance of power between Americans and Europeans was not shifted in favour of Europe, the French president's spokeswoman said.

Some critics contend that enlargement could revive cold war tensions by isolating Russia and by breeding envy among the nations excluded from the alliance.

## Palestinian police raid Hebron Russian Orthodox monastery

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinian police raided a Russian Orthodox monastery in Hebron and used force to expel monks and nuns living in the building, church officials said Tuesday.

Archimandrite Bartholomew issued a statement saying male and female Palestinian police officers broke into the monastery of the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia and used "brutal" force.

Colonel Jibril Rajub, the head of Palestinian Preventative Security in the West Bank, told AFP his forces raided the monastery at the request of the rival Moscow patriarchate, which insists the property is theirs.

"We acted upon the request of the Russian government and church to give back the property to its legitimate owners," said Col. Rajub, adding that only minor scuffles had broken out between his officers and the monastery residents.

The monastery in the West Bank town is owned by the

New York-based church, which split with the Russian Orthodox Church inside Russia in 1920 after accusing the Moscow patriarchate of supporting the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Sister Marina Checkov told AFP that "around 30 armed Palestinian police officers barged into our Abraham's Oak Monastery on Saturday after forcing open the door, and gave us half an hour to leave the building."

"The policemen then forced open the doors of the cells, and brutally forced the 10 members to leave."

"Our superior, Sister Juliana, was dragged along the floor and was later taken to hospital because her head struck the walls of the building on five occasions where she had an operation last year," she added.

"One of my friends, Sister Natasha, was struck in the stomach and head, and two monks were pushed around and handcuffed, and then thrown into the back of a vehicle," Sister Checkov said. She said only one old

monk, 80-year-old Father George, had been allowed to stay in the building.

The U.S.-based church does not recognise the authority of the Moscow patriarchate, which for many years has been demanding the return of all its property in the Holy Land.

The breakaway faction issued a statement from New York, describing the raid as "a flagrant violation of international law."

"We urgently appeal to United States officials, both at home and in Israel, to take whatever legal steps necessary to redress this moral outrage and return our property in Hebron," it added.

Archimandrite Bartholomew, the New York-based church's representative in Jerusalem, said members of the Moscow patriarchate and a Russian diplomat were present during the raid.

Sister Checkov said the monastery, church and several other buildings near Hebron have now been taken over by the Moscow patriarchate.

## Arrested Cambodian royalist shot dead — interior ministry

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — A top security aide to Cambodian first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh was shot dead after being arrested by forces loyal to second Prime Minister Hun Sen, an interior ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Khieu Sopheap said that Hor Sok, one of four senior members of the prince's Royalist Party wanted on insurrection charges, was killed after his arrest Monday by unnamed assailants despite efforts to ensure his security.

"He was shot down by people who were angry at him," Khieu Sopheap said. "We had a lot of protection for him, but we could not protect him. He was shot by four or five bullets."

Khieu Sopheap's statement to reporters contradicted earlier information from senior interior

Ministry officials who said Hor Sok had committed suicide in custody.

The spokesman, meeting reporters after pro-Hun Sen Interior Minister Sar Kheng briefed the diplomatic corps, gave no further details and declined to answer questions.

Hor Sok, a secretary of state at the interior ministry, was arrested following two days of fierce factional fighting in Phnom Penh in which Hun Sen's forces defeated those of Prince Ranariddh. Khieu Kanharith, the secretary of state for the information ministry, said Hor Sok was arrested after unsuccessfully trying to seek asylum in the Singapore embassy.

"The Singaporean embassy asked us whether we had a court warrant to arrest him or not... we said 'yes, we have a warrant' and they would not allow him in," Khieu Kanharith told AFP.

Both Sar Kheng and Khieu Kanharith are members of Hun Sen's former Communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Others wanted by the CPP on charges of allegedly forming armed groups and bringing them into the capital included Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Nhiek Bun Chhay, Royalist Security Chief Serey Kosal and Deputy Intelligence Chief Chao Samnath. All three were believed to have escaped and to have headed to Cambodia's north-west to regroup and continue the fighting. Hun Sen and the CPP have accused the four men and Prince Ranariddh of illegally moving troops — including former and current Khmer Rouge guerrillas — into the capital to provoke unrest and instability. Prince Ranariddh is currently in France.

## Fiery Lebanese cleric grabs political stage

BAALBEK (R) — Former Hizbollah leader Sheikh Sobhi Tufaili, who last week launched a "hunger revolt" against the government, has emerged as a potent force in Lebanese politics, analysts said on Tuesday.

The radical Shiite Muslim cleric's campaign has deepened divisions between Hizbollah factions, one choosing to work within the political system and the other fighting what it says is government neglect of poor areas, one analyst said.

But the analysts wondered if Sheikh Tufaili, who condemns Hizbollah's (Party of God) leaders as too soft, will press ahead with his civil disobedience campaign to ease economic hardship or trip political land mines.

The campaign has grabbed newspaper front pages, alarming the government and raising questions about the current political complexion of Hizbollah, which he headed until 1991.

"Tufaili has emerged from oblivion into politics. The result is he is a force to be reckoned with," said a Lebanese analyst who requested anonymity.

Sheikh Tufaili is urging Bekaa residents to refuse to pay utility bills and taxes to pressure the government to tackle poverty in the area

which is suffering economically from a crackdown on illegal drug crops.

The charismatic cleric holds no post in Hizbollah but is still a member. He left his post as secretary general in 1991 and fell out with the new leadership when it took a decision to take part in the 1992 parliamentary elections.

Hizbollah now has a nine-member base in the 128-seat parliament.

Hizbollah officials agree that economic problems should be tackled. But they disagree with Sheikh Tufaili's methods, saying his campaign will only trigger a confrontation with the government threatening the national peace.

## Israel looking into immigration of 3,500 alleged Indo-Burmese Jews

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel is examining whether 3,500 tribesmen living on either side of the Burma-India border are practising Jews and eligible to emigrate to Israel, the Jerusalem Report magazine said Tuesday.

The magazine said Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi is looking into the background of the Shinlung tribesmen "who have been practising Judaism for the past 27 years and want to emigrate to Israel."

The 1.5 million-strong Shinlung were converted to Christianity in the 19th century, but many of them believe the tribe are the

descendants of the Biblical tribe of Menusheh — one of the 10 lost tribes of Israel.

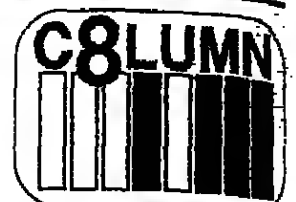
The tribe's cause was taken up by ultra-Orthodox Rabbi Eliyahu Avichayil, who heads the Amishav (My People Returns) organisation, which searches for descendants of the lost tribes.

Since the early 1980s the rabbi has urged for 270 Shinlung to convert to Judaism and settle in Israel, but the Jerusalem Report said the Interior Ministry is worried about a huge influx of tribesmen and is making emigration increasingly difficult.

The magazine said Rabbi Avichayil met Mr. Hanegbi last month to push their case, insisting all 3,500 who want to emigrate are genuine Jews who have built their own synagogues, practice circumcision and keep the Sabbath rest day.

"These people are completely genuine in their Judaism. Some are suffering for their faith... they are not seeking a passport from the Third World to the first," the rabbi told the magazine.

Under the law of return, every Jew in the diaspora has the right to emigrate to Israel and claim citizenship.



Miss Italy rules changed after black beauty queen dispute

ROME (AFP) — Roles governing the election of Italy's beauty queen, Miss Italia, have been changed on the heels of a controversy that erupted after the 1996 election of Denny Medoz, who is black and hails from the Dominican Republic. Enzo Minghiani, who runs the contest, this week ruled that all competitors must have at least one Italian parent. That would have ruled out Medoz's election last year as both her parents are Dominican, though it sets no racial bar. Medoz, who, however, did set off a hail of controversial comment. Television presenter Alba Parietti said: "I'm not a racist but I do think that a young black woman cannot be Miss Italia."

Younger Kennedys admit alcohol problem

NEW YORK (R) — A member of the Kennedy family said in an interview it was easier for the young generation of the Kennedys to "get an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting together than a touch-football team." In an interview with Vanity Fair as part of an article on the troubles afflicting some of the children of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, 34-year-old son Christopher said his siblings were well aware of the moral ramifications of their actions and that alcohol definitely played a role. He was quoted as saying: "No one has hidden behind alcoholism as an excuse for inappropriate behaviour. He said that at least eight or nine members of his immediate family of 28 siblings and cousins or their spouses attend daily AA meetings.

Disneyland gets its 400 millionth visitor, and her name is Minnie

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Disneyland hosted its 400 millionth visitor who happened to be named Minnie, just like Mickey Mouse's girlfriend, Minnie Pepto, her husband and two children walked in Sunday morning and were promptly met by Mickey Mouse and the Disneyland Band. The park showered her with gifts, including a lifetime pass to the theme park. "This was totally unexpected," Pepto said. "We had a choice of going to Las Vegas or Disneyland and we decided to go to Disneyland for the kids."

90-year-old champagne on seabed tasted 'damn good', finder says

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A sampling of 5,000 bottles of 90-year-old Heidsieck champagne found 64 metres down in a sunken cargo ship in the Bay of Finland tasted "damn good," according to the Swedish team that brought up the first bottles on Monday. "It tasted so damn good, unbelievably good," C. Sten Consortium representative Claes Bergvall told AFP, describing the tasting as "a real sensation." The champagne, along with 36,000 litres of cognac and 6,000 litres of red wine, was found in June on board the 25-meter Joenkeping, a Swedish cargo ship sunk in 1916 by the Germans. The champagne and cognac were destined for the Russian Imperial Army, and the wine was to have been delivered to the Finnish Central Bank. The valuable cargo could sell for up to \$65 million at an auction.

## Ex-police chief admits informing on Turkish military

ANKARA (AFP) — A former police chief accused of bugging telephones at the headquarters of the armed forces has admitted informing on the military for the government.

In an interview Tuesday in the Milliyet newspaper, Bulent Orakoglu said he informed the civil authorities, in particular President Suleyman Demirel, of the army's activities and any preparations for a possible coup d'etat.

Mr. Orakoglu is a former head of the Police Intelligence Service.

The armed forces, who see themselves as the defenders of modern Turkey's secular heritage, clashed openly with former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan over what they saw as the creeping Islamisation of Turkey.

Mr. Erbakan stepped down as premier on June 18, after a turbulent 12-month rule, ending speculation that the armed forces were planning a coup to oust the one in my possession to the highest members of the civil order. Mr. Orakoglu said,

implying Mr. Demirel.

"Mr. Demirel has complained in the past about not being informed that coups were in preparation," Mr. Orakoglu told a Milliyet journalist on a flight from the United States to Turkey.

He denied, however, that he had used phone-taps to gather his information.

Mr. Demirel was overthrown twice by military coups while he was prime minister.

Mr. Orakoglu was sent to the United States by former Interior Minister Meral Aksemer, a close aide to former foreign minister and Erbakan coalition ally Tansu Ciller, after the armed forces suspected their lines were tapped and asked the Interior Ministry to investigate.

Recalled by the new prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, Mr. Orakoglu returned to Turkey on Monday.

An inquiry has been opened to investigate claims that a unit within the police oversaw wire-tapping operations, particularly on the armed forces but also on certain politicians

## Saudi suspect says he was in Iran when Khobar complex blew

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A Saudi suspect in last year's bombing of a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia claims he was in Iran at the time and that his passport proves it, the New York Times said Tuesday.

Ahduh Rahim Sayegh, 28, was extradited last month from Canada on grounds he had information on the June 25, 1996 truck bombing of Khobar Towers at Dammam that killed 19 Americans.

"I have no information. I don't even know the location of Khobar," Mr. Sayegh told the daily in a telephone interview.

He denied belonging to the Saudi Hizbollah or any violent political group, saying he was "not a terrorist" but a political dissident made a scapegoat by the Saudi government.

U.S. authorities suspect Mr. Sayegh conducted a reconnaissance of the housing complex before the bomb attack. He is

also suspected of driving a car that signalled the truck carrying the bomb to enter the compound.

Mr. Sayegh's lawyer Michael Wildes suggested his client lied to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about having information on the bombing to avoid being extradited from Canada to Saudi Arabia, where Mr. Sayegh said, "I would fear I would be guillotined." The suspect said his passport bears stamps that prove that he entered Iran before the Dammam bombing, and that a Kuwait airline manifest shows he left Iran for Kuwait shortly after.

It was unclear whether U.S. authorities could indict Mr. Sayegh on conspiracy charges if he recants his confession, but he could still request political asylum on grounds he would be persecuted if he returned to Saudi Arabia, the daily said.

Israeli driver sentenced to

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